WORKS IN PROGRESS

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Families Shocked By Governor Gregoire's Welfare Cuts

by POWER

Families protesting budget cuts to safety net programs met with members of Governor Gregoire's staff on September 1st. They chose September 1st in solidarity with nearly 2,000 disabled adults who had their sole income, a $339 disability grant, terminated because of a retroactive five-year time limit the Legislature passed and the Governor signed last session.

"These are people who have already proven to the state that they are too disabled to work. We invite them to join us to ask the Governor what she expects them to do," said Monica Peabody, Director of POWER (Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights).

In addition, Governor Gregoire announced $51 million in cuts to welfare programs to families. These will be achieved by cutting off a family's welfare grant after 5 years, even if they have been participating in job search or job readiness programs the entire time. This will leave these families with only food stamps and no way to pay the rent.

Organizers and allies of POWER (People Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights), meeting with the Governor's aides, asking why she's cutting welfare for the disabled

We are being told that the cuts are inevitable, that everyone has to tighten their belts. Let's look at the populations who are being asked to tighten their belts the most. Washington State's disability benefits, formerly called GAU, now called Disability Lifeline, have not had a cost of living increase in over 20 years. Benefits to parents without incomes, or with very low incomes, are called TANF, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. They have had one 3% increase in the past 17 years, a single mother and her child receive $453 per month.

The rest of the cuts will be achieved by limiting support services, such as childcare, which provide parents the ability to successfully meet the onerous work requirements that accompany TANF.

"Cutting my childcare will shoot me in the foot. I'm maxed as it is and can't even afford to pay the bills. I would have to decide between childcare and rent, which is illogical. I can't work without childcare, but can't afford childcare to work," said Wendy Davis, POWER intern.

No welfare recipients were invited to join the WorkFirst Redesign team, the group that made recommendations of which programs to cut to the Governor.

"If they ask people who rely on these programs where to cut, we can suggest improvements that could provide the savings without creating the job loss and homelessness the Governor's cuts will engender," said Jade Souza, a POWER Board member.

POWER members are recommending the following cuts, instead of those proposed by the Governor:

1) *Streamline the welfare to work program to the unemployment program.* Currently TANF recipients are required to make 15 job contacts a week, go to the Work Source office every day, and log 35 hours a week of job search. Unemployment recipients are required to make 3 job contacts a week and send in weekly reports. Parents who live 60 miles from the Work Source office, or for whom it's a 3-hour bus ride each way, are told there are no exceptions. They say that the requirements get in the way of their finding a job. Governor Gregoire's staff

▸ **POWER,** continued on page 3

"Burn, Olympia, Burn"

A conversation with M-1 of dead prez

Interview by Shyam P. Khanna

dead prez, the Revolutionary But Gangsta hip hop group that consists of M-1 (Mutulu Olugbala) and stic.man (Clayton Gavin), combine the swagger of Jay-Z, the hardcore aesthetics of Wu-Tang and Mobb Deep, and the educated lyricism of KRS-One to not just make political music, but to help organize social movements in the United States. Their practice and perspective draws on years of experience as community organizers in Tallahassee, Florida, and Chicago, Illinois before they formed dead prez. To this day, they remain involved with community struggles. Pretty impressive for a group that has also recorded with the likes of Jay-Z and the Roots, and provided the soundtrack for Chapelle's Show.

This fall they are planning to drop a new album, *Information Age*. Their most recent work, *Revolutionary But Gangsta Grillz*, a mixtape with DJ Drama, is available to download for free online. The mixtape mostly features beats reappropriated from popular, commercial rap songs and reinfused with revolution lyrics.

dead prez, along with DJ/MC Mike Flo, recently preformed in downtown Olympia, at the Vault on 9/10 and the Cherry Loft on 9/11. This was their first visit to Olympia since their infamous concert at the Evergreen State College on Valentine's Day, 2008. Before their show on 9/11, we had the opportunity to catch up with M-1 and ask some questions. In this interview, he shares his thoughts on where hip hop is at today, and its potential use as a tool for resistance and liberation; his recent trips to Palestine; the election of Barack Obama; and why dead prez considers Olympia, WA, "one of [their] revolutionary homes." Unfortunately, we could not include the entire discussion in the pages of Works in Progress. To catch the full interview, including M-1 paying homage to Lolita Lebron and Marilyn Buck, his thoughts on the economic crisis and the U.S. Social Forum, check it out at www.olywip.org, on the October 2010 page. Big shout outs to H.R. Paperstax (aka T-Cat aka Erika Marquez) for helping with editing and transcribing and to 2.5 House Productions for putting the show together.

Hip hop is poised in a position to be one of the most effective tools because it imitates the voice of the people. It's not the voice of the people today, but, you know, its roots stem from a community process.

WIP: What do you see as the role of hip hop and hip hop cultural workers in political organizing? How can or should an MC or a producer relate to organizing struggles going on in their communities?

M-1: Well, hip hop can be a resistance tool. It doesn't have to be. There's so many tools that you can use in the resistance struggle. Hip hop is poised in a position to be one of the most effective tools because it imitates the voice of the people. It's not the voice of the people today, but, you know, its roots stem from a community process. That was, and is, the most potent part of hip hop music. I don't make any assumptions about artists that have a responsibility, or have something that they must do, or must not do in order to be a part of hip hop. But the movement, on the other hand, can use hip hop music, as long as it trains the artists in political education and is able to reflect directly what's going on, the campaigns that's going on, inside the movement. Now this can be very powerful. There's other ways to do it as well. Of course, you know, you got graffiti artists, you got newspapers, you got marches and protests, you got—shit, you can use comedy, you can use a whole lot of things to move the peoples in a very phenomenal kind of way.

But I just gotta say that because I think a lot of people stress that hip hop music must play this role. But I gotta

▸ **DEAD PREZ,** continued on page 12

Letters to Works In Progress

Boycott clarification

First of all, I do support the Co-op boycott, and no, I am not Palestinian (nor Jewish for that matter). What I can't seem to find information about, and what concerns me is, what if the companies whose products are removed from the Co-op are actually progressive and support a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? For instance, using a simplistic metaphoric example, what if a co-op group is boycotting dairy farms for the treatment of dairy cows, so they remove Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream from their grocery store? (The assumption is that Ben and Jerry's only uses milk from humanely treated cows which I have no idea if they do or don't!)

I would hope someone could address this issue. Yes, there are only a few items being removed from the shelves of the Olympia Co-op. It's not the point of "how many items", it is the fact that we can make our few voices heard with our pocket books. However, I'd hate to think I'm supporting the boycott if these were companies that were "good" as opposed to those companies that want to remove the Palestinian people for good!

-Cynthia R. Pratt

Thanks, a good question and I think there is a good answer. I think the answer is that the boycott is specific in the way you suggest. I think the Co-op is still carrying Peace Oil made in Israel for the kind of reasons you are referring to. I suspect you are not the only person out there thinking along these lines. We are attempting to confirm directly with the Co-op. Ben and Jerry thank you for the plug. WIP thanks you for the thoughtful letter and question. - Mike

BDS and Cuba are not comparable

This is written for anyone who considers a comparison between the US treatment of Cuba and BDS as a global tactic to be legitimate.

I've heard and read this comparison twice: at the Aug. 12 Co-Op forum by someone against BDS and in Marco Rosaire Rossi's article from the September *Works in Progress*. Rossi directly refuted his own point by conceding *"All the examples I mentioned were of large powerful nations using BDS against smaller ones."* Then why did he even mention the US blockade on Cuba in the first place?

Rossi is someone specifically educated in international law (as evidenced in his prior writing for *WIP*) so he should know that what the US is doing to Cuba is internationally condemned and recognized as an act of war.

The strongest forces sustaining the US blockade on Cuba involve coercion of weaker states subordinate to US trade demands and simple imperial aggression. The idea that a public majority of US citizens supports the idea of not allowing themselves to travel to Cuba and keeping their own states from engaging in agricultural trade with Cuba is highly suspect. On an international level, every year an overwhelming portion of the United Nations General Assembly votes against the US embargo on Cuba and many countries have traded with Cuba in direct defiance of US threats.

What's most troubling about this comparison to BDS is hearing people *within the US* determine that our government's actions toward Cuba weren't persuasive enough as a deterrent. Tell that to people living in Cuba, whom have spent entire generations experiencing food supply shortages, terrorist attacks from people who currently reside unpunished in the US (Luis Posada Carriles, Orlando Bosch, members of Alpha 66) and a lifetime under the foreboding shadow of an empire's threats. Viewing what the US is doing to Cuba solely through the prism of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions is myopic.

Rossi implies that focusing instead on the Cuban government instead of the Cuban people might have led to a more *effective* BDS. The problem is that the Cuban people *are the government*. I would encourage Rossi and others to learn about Cuba's electoral process through the writings of Arnold August who has witnessed numerous Cuban elections and explained how the process of participatory democracy works there.

Even if we remove the absurdity of comparing BDS to a state power, the plight of Palestine under Israeli aggression is demonstrably worse than Cuba's current status within the US crosshairs. For good or ill, Cuba has been able to define itself autonomously as a viable state in spite of the blockade and work with other countries in groundbreaking ways such as exporting not just products but actual doctors and nurses to provide free healthcare in other countries.

In relation, the autonomy of Palestine is more severely repressed and hindered by Israel. Although the problems of the current US blockade on Cuba cannot be forgotten since the Cold War ended long ago, they are overshadowed by the immediacy of Israel's active suppression of Palestine funded by US tax dollars. BDS as a tactical, publicly organized response to Israeli suppression is commendable and defies comparison to the cruel aggression of state powers.

-Brendan Funtek

Olympia is small-minded

Smalltown does not necessarily mean small-minded, but it just happens that it often works out that way.

Olympia is only a short distance from Seattle, but may as well be a whole world away. In following the Co-op's decision to divest from Israel, I can only shake my head a bit and laugh at the ignorant, impotent (and in the end) counter-productive effort towards what they hope to achieve – in fact, unknowingly, these actions will result in the OPPOSITE reaction for what the Co-Op and BDS proponents are trying to do.

What the reflexive people who are so angry with Israel are trying to do (from what I have read in your local magazines and in the BDS information available) is not only to show solidarity with the Pals, but to also affect economic pressure on the state of Israel. What these ignorant and thoughtless people do not understand is that Israel's reaction will be the OPPOSITE of the result for which they are trying to achieve. Do you not know this? Do none of the proponents of the boycott know any Israelis? Do you not know how Israel will respond to such pressure?

Like the Pals, Israelis right now are reacting from emotion-based anger, and because the Israelis feel that they are fighting for their lives (not just to end their oppression), only the pressure exerted upon Israel by the International Community (namely the USA) keeps Israel from reacting WORSE to the Pals. Do you understand this fact? IF the BDS movement has the effect that they are hoping for, which is Israel feeling more isolated both from their allies and also economically, the results will have the OPPOSITE effect of pushing the Israelis to be nicer to the Pals. Do you not understand that? Like most people who feel that their back is against the wall, Israel will react aggressively – the difference between the Pals and the Israelis is that the Israelis are able to perform a much more violent and fundamentally repressive effect. THUS – Israeli reaction to any successful boycott will MAKE LIFE WORSE FOR THE PALESTINIANS!!!

So, what is your aim? Please answer this question to yourself – is your aim to make life BETTER, or WORSE for the Pals? If your goal is to make life better – let me tell you ... you're blowing magnificently but at least with great aplomb. WORSE though, you are making things so much easier for the Israeli far-Right, who unlike the 60+% of Israelis who want a comprehensive peace plan, this smaller group is a solid cause of the continued Israeli repression.

The Israeli far-Right thanks you and hopes that you to keep it up.

-Andrew Friedman

...and metropolitan doesn't necessarily mean broad-minded.

After considering the question requested in this letter, the members of Works In Progress *continue to stand in support of the Olympia Food Co-op boycott of Israeli products and the non-violent Palestinian movement that calls for boycott, divestment, and sanctions.*

It is unacceptable to claim that there can be no solution beyond inaction to the hideous situation Israel has created. The cynical claim of the Israel government's insensitivity to international opinion is countered by the recent easing of Israel's blockade of Gaza. We believe it was the decades of inaction and the lack of interest and concern for the Palestinians by the international community that has encouraged the Israel government to sink to such a low level of morality. - Sylvia

Questions on Jewish oppression

Hi Andras Jones, I'll go next. Thanks for your recent piece "Jewish Oppression in Olympia, One Kike's Opinion." I'm not Jewish, I haven't experienced Jewish Oppression nor do I know how it works. I don't deny it exists and would like to hear about it. If you could write again with some *specifics* to help me, and our "town" out "...with it's absolute ignorance when it comes to Jewish Oppression" that'd be good.

I support the Co-op's boycott and don't consider it a farce, as you do. As a Co-op member with a normal healthy interest in politics and human rights, the boycott seems like strong, non-violent action that could help raise awareness and possibly contribute to an easing of the dire circumstances the Palestinian people endure. I learned a lot about the rationale behind the boycott by reading information posted on the Olympia-BDS.org site. Trusting the sincerity of the BDS movement's stated goals, concerns, etc., it seems clear enough to be about political action to affect a grave human rights situation rather than any anti-Jewish sentiment.

It was smart to put "Opinion" in the title of your article. The Co-op, KAOS, Olympia Film Society, *WIP* ... these are all organizations that *in my opinion* are RAD and are surely big reasons why many people in Olympia feel a real sense of progressive community here. Would you like to be an educator on these organization's Jewish Oppression patterns? C'mon brother, I know that you're a thoughtful guy from listening to your show. If you're going to pronounce these important organizations Jewish-Oppressive, let's hear some specifics.

Also, thank you to Phan Nguyen for your insightful and serious articles exploring some of these and related issues.

-Drew Gibbs

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

Works In Progress is committed to stories misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream media. We value local, well-researched news stories, accounts of personal experience and reflections by local authors. Opinion pieces, also valued, are often best supported by facts, examples, and sources, and we encourage writers to include these elements to submissions. We also print some downright crazy and silly stuff, so send us your gonzo stories and push the boundaries, if you dare.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If your issue isn't being covered in Works In Progress, *it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or haven't found someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *olywip@gmail* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues

WIP is archived on microfilm by the University of Washington Library. Some issues are held in the Timberland Library system. The last five years are online at www.olywip.org

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Cover cartoon by Mr. Fish

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:
October 22
PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507
olywip@gmail.com
Proofreading:
October 29
(Be there for the first read!)

ADVERTISING RATES
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7.25″	x	4.75″	. . . $125
4.75	x	4.75″	. . . $83
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WIP should return to its core values

Your mission is, in part, to "provide a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed," and, generally, *WIP* is a shining example of a small collective making a big impact by providing space for those who are voiceless and creating visibility for the "other side" in our increasingly one-sided world. In this regard, your September issue was a huge disappointment. In the debate over the co-op's boycott of Israeli goods, *WIP*'s responsibility to the oppressed is no less relevant than on any other issue. *WIP* has never acted as an open space for "both sides" because *WIP* has always rightly understood that in issues of peace and justice, we live in a world with enormous imbalances in power, and spaces that claim to be unbiased generally are unsafe for folks on one "side" or another. Why, then, does the anti-boycott side enjoy such exposure in the one paper that should know better than to support them? Haim Strasbourger, Susan Trinin, Andras Jones and Marco Rossi trumpet the same tired and misguided arguments against boycott that you'll read daily in the Olympian and on right-wing blogs. There is no shortage of outlets for that point of view.

I am Jewish and I reject the notion that all Jewish voices are inherently valid on issues of Israel Palestine. Many Americans, Jew or Gentile, have little or no understanding of the suffering and indignity that Palestinians face in their daily experience. This boycott has done more to raise conversation and consciousness than anything that's happened in Olympia since Rachel Corrie's untimely death. I'm proud of this community and hopeful that *WIP* will return to its core values and continue to be the journalistic pride of Olympia.

-Noah Sochet

WIP is despicable!

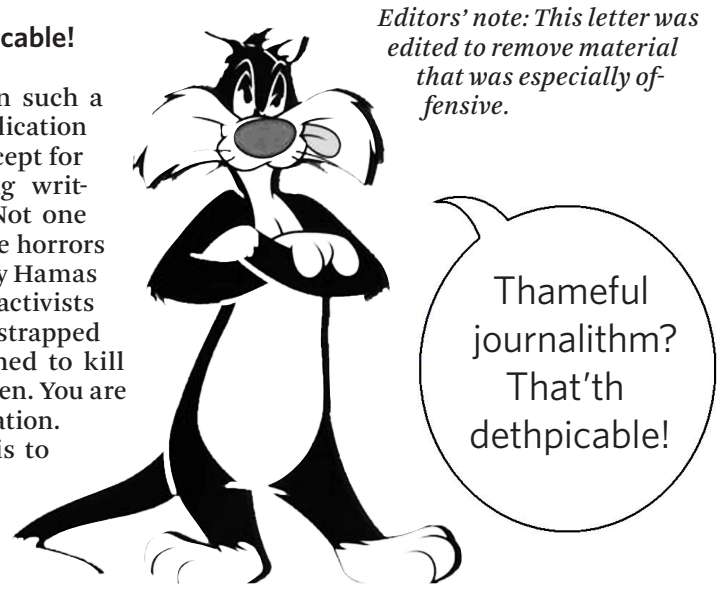
I have never seen such a horribly biased publication in my entire life except for perhaps something written by Larouche. Not one article speaks of the horrors inflicted on Israel by Hamas or supposed peace activists from Palestian *[sic]* strapped with bombs designed to kill Jewish schoolchildren. You are a despicable publication.

I am sending this to my friend Dexter, a Christian media analyst in Boston and frequent contributor to *The New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, etc. I am just amazed. This paper was just page after page of biased information. Not once do you mention how biased Evergreen is as a college. I know. I am a graduate of Evergreen and The University of Puget Sound and The University of Washington. I have a B.A., Master in Teaching degree and a degree in Paralegal Studies. This paper is shameful journalism that gives journalism a bad name.

Shame on you.

-Alison Whiteman

Editors' note: This letter was edited to remove material that was especially offensive.



News bits and bites

by Mike Coday

State Violence Update

• John T. Williams, a Native American carver, was shot to death by Seattle police officer Ian Burk on August 30th. Initial reports indicate Williams was carrying a folding knife with a three-inch blade and was shot four times at a distance of about ten feet when he did not drop the knife when commanded to do so. Williams is reported to have been wearing ear buds when shot. He is also reported to have been partially deaf. Condolences to the family and our first nation cousins.

• Michael Byoune was shot and killed by Inglewood police on May 11. Byoune and friends were at a hamburger stand when shots were fired nearby. They quickly jumped in their car and drove away from the area. Two Inglewood police fired 29 shots into Byoune's car on the mistaken belief that they were being fired upon from the car. Byoune was hit 5 times and died at the scene. The authorities now concede that Byoune and friends were unarmed bystanders, and the authorities want to hold the person who fired the initial shots near the hamburger stand accountable for their death. Guess that's easier than trying to sort out the politics of 29 rounds fired by the Inglewood police into the vehicle.

• Washington State executed Cal Coburn Brown on September 10th. Governor Gregoire resisted pressure to put a stay on the execution or to commute the sentence to life in prison. For those interested in the arcane details of state executions, Brown was executed by lethal injection of one drug, sodium thiopental, after 16 plus years on death row. Go to the Seattle Times for more details, or visit www.abolishdeathpenalty.org if you want to join the movement to abolish the death penalty in Washington State.

• Craig and Cindy Corrie are in Israel at civil trial this month to see if anyone can be held accountable for the death of their daughter Rachel Corrie on March 16, 2003. Rachel Corrie Foundation for more information.

rachelcorriefoundation.org

Food Justice News

• The Coalition of Imokalee Workers have targeted Trader Joe's and are pressuring the grocery chain, which attracts many left-of-center shoppers, to commit to Fair Food. CIW has managed to get an extra penny a pound for tomatoes in earlier campaigns, thereby almost doubling the wages of tomato pickers who hadn't seen a wage increase in decades. Go to ciw-online.org for more details or to join the struggle for Fair Food. Speaking of food justice, how about food co-ops and their BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) movement?

BDS Bulletin

It is happening. And the good news is that BDS will help the peace process and produces good results for both Palestine and Israel. Working on the extension and protection of fundamental human rights is to be on the right side of history. When we look back we will find that Olympia played an important role in this movement at this moment.

• More than 150 actors, directors, writers and artists signed a letter of support for Israeli actors who have chosen not to perform in settlements in the West Bank. The Israeli actors are reported to have decided not to let their work be part of a cruel occupation that is a barrier to peace. www.mondoweiss.net has the story

• Chile's parliament adopted the boycott requested by the Palestinian Authority at the beginning of this September. Jewish Peace News has that story: http://jewishpeacenews.blogspot.com/

• Port Townsend Co-op voted on September 21st to stay out of the BDS movement. Israel put forth a significant amount of effort to get a 4 to 2 vote against joining the boycott. The Israel lobby is reported to be working hard to limit the movement to Olympia. http://jeffcowabds.wordpress.com/ has good coverage of BDS in Jefferson County. Hmm... Don't look now, but down in California...

• The Sacramento Natural Food Co-op now has members calling to join the BDS movement. "If we can stop carrying products tested on animals, surely we can stop carrying products that violate human rights," Maggie Coulter, Co-op member, said at a meeting of the Co-op board on September 7th. Thanks to Austin for sharing that news. There's something going on in LA as well.

• US tax dollars going to Israel this year? $3 Billion, give or take. Winning hearts and minds... or at least renting hearts and minds as long as our Chinese credit line holds out.

Uh-oh, did I just jump to Economic News?

• The decision-makers in DC, Washington (our east coast sister city?) have really set their sites on blaming Social Security for the mortgage crisis and soaring deficit. The same folks who have robbed the trust fund now for decades to fund wars and war-profiteers are wringing their hands about the insolvency of the Social Security system. Read the piece from Real Change News on page 17 for some context if you are so inclined.

• Washington State continues to try to balance the State budget on the backs of State employees and folks who are scratching to stay alive on general assistance, disability and temporary assistance to needy families. A big thank you to POWER, our local organization that speaks to the Governor for the folks at the bottom runs of the economic ladder. www.oly-wa.us/power/ for the details and to get involved

• Washington State voters get the opportunity to level the State tax field a bit in November. A yes vote on Initiative I-1098 would reduce taxes on small businesses and increase the tax burden of millionaires in the State. Our current State revenue plan is one of the most regressive in the nation. We are down around #48 or 49. Mississippi has a less regressive tax scheme in terms of taxing the poor. I don't want to beat up on Mississippi, but wouldn't be nice to be in the middle of the pack instead of crawling to the bottom? Go to www.yeson1098.com for more details

• Campaign contribution news update: Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer have each contributed $100,000 to defeat the I-1098 millionaire tax initiative. The initiative would slap a 5% tax on income for an individual with income above $200,00

▸ **NEWS BITS,** continued on page 17

▸ **POWER,** continued from page 1

agreed that the requirements are unattainable and this would save money.

2) *Make work requirements voluntary.* California legislators admitted they could no longer afford to adequately run their welfare to work program and made participation voluntary, saving a proposed $510 million in childcare and administrative costs. Rather than plying the dangerous social experiment of withdrawing support services while maintaining work requirements, allow parent to choose whether to look for work outside the home, or save the state millions of dollars in childcare costs by caring for their own children.

If you agree with us, contact Governor Gregoire and ask her to make budget cuts that don't hurt children.

CALL: 360-902-4111 (for the deaf or hard of hearing, dial 7-1-1)

WRITE: Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

FAX: 360-753-4110

If you would like to get more involved or have questions about your own benefits, please contact POWER at:

701 Franklin Street SE Olympia, WA 98501

360-352-9716 toll free 866-343-9716

welfarerights@riseup.net

http://www.oly-wa.us/power/

Find us on Facebook and Myspace.

POWER is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a strong social safety net while working toward a world where children and care giving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated.

POWER needs a new home!

POWER must move! After 12 incredibly generous years of rent-free office space, the First Christian Church sadly needs to reclaim the Payne Room/POWER office. So POWER is looking for a home. Spread the word!

What rent free has meant for us is that we have been able to spend our funding on program expenses - staff and supports to our low-income members, like childcare, food and transportation to meetings. If possible, we would love to continue this tradition. The First Christian Church considered POWER's work helping low-income families prevent homelessness and poverty an extension of their ministry.

We are hoping there is another church or organization who would benefit from housing POWER, either rent-free or at a low-cost. Are there other organizations that who are interested in sharing space? Is there a landlord who needs a tax write-off? We are open to exploring options. Let us know if you have ideas.

POWER (Parents Organizing For Welfare and Economic Rights)

701 Franklin Street SE Olympia, WA 98501

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Why I Support the Boycott of Israeli Goods from the Olympia Food Co-op

by Peter Bohmer

The decision by the board of the Olympia Food Coop to not buy Israeli made goods and boycott them is a positive and important contribution towards ending the Israeli occupation of Palestine. It is part of a global grassroots boycott, divest and sanctions (BDS) movement to pressure the United States and Israel to fundamentally change their policies. **I strongly support this courageous and important decision made by consensus by the Olympia Food Coop board on July, 15th, 2010.**

Since 1967, Israel when seized and occupied the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, Israel has continued to expand colonial settlements of Israelis in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, depriving Palestinians of more and more of their land as well as subjecting them to military occupation. Israel withdrew their settlements in 2005, but since 2006, they have blockaded Gaza by sea, air and land. This blockade has made it impossible for most of the 1.4 million people in Gaza to meet their daily needs. On December 27th, 2008, Israel invaded Gaza, killing over 1400 residents there and further devastating the land and infrastructure. Massive war crimes were committed by Israel; The Israel destruction was totally disproportionate to any attacks from Gaza against Israel. These war crimes were documented in the U.N. report commonly referred to as the Goldstone report. On May 31st, 2010, the Israeli military (IDF) brutally attacked the Gaza peace flotilla, which were bringing food and humanitarian aid to Gaza. The IDF killed nine people on the lead ship, the Mavi Marmara.

Israel with U.S. support has continued to take Palestinian land, humiliate and oppress Palestinian people and refuse to accept a fully functioning and independent Palestinian society and state. Israel has served U.S. imperialist needs in the Middle East by attacking movements and governments, e.g., Egypt under President Nasser, who have tried to assert independence from U.S. domination.

Israel depends on U.S. military support for its consistent violation of international law and Palestinian rights. Just as the apartheid government in South Africa felt free to oppress the black majority as long as it had U.S. support, so does the Israeli government consider itself "free" to act with impunity. The strength and potential of the BDS movement, particularly in the United States is that it will force U.S. policy in the Middle East to become increasingly exposed and understood by the population here, and to undermine U.S. supported Israeli aggression.

The boycott of Israeli goods by the Olympia Food Coop is a step towards shaking the self-confidence of the Israeli elite and population, and challenging the idea that they can act with impunity and will always be supported by the United States. Hopefully, these boycotts will spread to other food coops, grocery stores and other places where Israeli goods are sold. Hopefully we will also develop successful organized boycotts against U.S. companies such as Motorola who are integrally involved in supporting and profiting from the Israeli occupation. The developing movement to pressure institutions such as the TIAA-CREF Pension fund and U.S. universities to sell their holdings in Israeli companies and perhaps, even more importantly, complicit U.S. companies can play a major role in ending the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

For this movement to be successful, we need to have a long run strategy that builds grassroots power and popular understanding about Israel, and U.S. foreign policy in support of Israel. There are no shortcuts. That has been one weakness of the Palestine solidarity movement in the U.S. We are justifiably, so outraged by what Israel does against Palestinians that we do not methodically and effectively and sustainably counter the pro-Israeli and anti-Palestinian stance of the majority of the population in the United States. It will be a long struggle but can be successful.

Israel with U.S. support has continued to take Palestinian land, humiliate and oppress Palestinian people and refuse to accept a fully functioning and independent Palestinian society and state.

There is a growing openness to a new and different narrative. The recent Israeli aggressions create some real opportunities to change popular understanding about the justness of the Palestinian cause, and in the longer run, U.S. policy. The boycott of Israeli goods by the Olympia Food Coop and the organized reaction against this decision gives us a real opportunity to explain the history of the struggle in Palestine-Israel, and the justness of the Palestinian cause.

These are some of the arguments I have been trying to deal with in supporting Palestine and the related food coop boycott of Israeli goods.

1) Israel is just defending itself by its military attacks in the West Bank and Gaza, e.g. Operation Cast Lead in January 2009 because of Palestinian rocket or suicide attacks against Israelis.

*We **should** take sides in favor of the boycott and Palestine. Doing nothing is taking sides in favor of the status quo.*

My response—First, the context is of a horrific Israeli occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and its turning Gaza into the largest prison in the world. This is the fundamental issue and much of Palestinian armed actions are being done out of weakness and to resist the Israeli occupation. The Israeli response in Gaza is collective punishment of the entire population which is illegal by international law and immoral, and totally disproportionate to any harm being done to Israelis.

2) The claim that Palestinians, particularly Hamas, want to drive Israel and Israelis into the sea. It is not clear that this is Hamas policy. Hamas has recently said they wouldn't recognize Israel but that is very different from sating that has committed itself fighting a war to destroy Israel. Since being elected as the government of Gaza in 2006, they have waged very few attacks against Israeli civilians. More importantly, if there was an economically and politically independent Palestinian nation, not controlled by Israel, with its capital in East Jerusalem, and full rights to its water, land, resources, airspace, and development, the focus of Palestinians will be to develop this society, not to attack Israel. Those who would want to militarily attack Israel under these conditions would have little popular support by Palestinian society. Moreover, Israel is not in danger of being militarily defeated; it has the most powerful military in the middle East with 200-300 nuclear weapons.

3) A contention issue is that the boycott that the Food Coop board voted for, stated that the boycott would not end until the Israeli occupation ended and Palestinians had the right of return. What this means is that Israel would have to ends its occupation of the Palestinian land it seized in the 1967 war. It also means that Palestinians who were forced out of what became Israel's 1948 borders, inside the so-called Green Line, would have the right to return together with their descendants to Israel. Zionism has been on a Jewish dominated state and society, and where any Jewish person from around the world has a right to move to Israel. On the other hand, Palestinians who were forced out in 1948 cannot even visit Israel, much less move back. If most Palestinians, whose origins are from inside Israel, moved back, within 20 years Jewish people might be a minority within Israel. The right of Palestinians to return follows international laws and most concepts of morality so needs to be supported. A possible resolution might be to assert the principle of the right of Palestinians to return with offers of money, or permanent residence in other countries such as the United States to those Palestinians who agree not to move back permanently to Israel. This might preserve a Jewish majority in Israel although the right of Jewish people to return to Israel before Palestinians would also have to be modified. Hopefully, over time, with these two nations of Palestine and Israel living in peace, much of the hostility between these Semitic people could be overcome and good relations and even one nation, perhaps a binational Palestine-Israel could emerge.

4) A fourth claim is that here are two equally just sides, the Israeli and the Palestinian, in this conflict and we shouldn't take sides, and that the boycott of Israeli goods is taking the Palestinian side. I am reminded by a wise comment by Khader Hamide, a Palestinian-American whom the United States was trying to deport, when he was asked to comment on this perspective. Hamide said "that Palestinians are losing their lives and their land while Israelis are losing their humanity by the occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem." Palestinians are the oppressed group, and the U.S. and Israel are the main oppressors.

We Should Take Sides in favor of the boycott and Palestine. Doing nothing is taking sides in favor of the status quo. The Olympia Food Coop has taken a stand by deciding to boycott Israeli goods. Thank You! Let us all take steps big and small that further Palestinian self-determination and justice, and that increase the numbers and power of those committed to ending the Israeli occupation of all of the occupied Palestinian territories of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

For more information on this campaign and to get involved, please check out the website of the very impressive group, Olympia BDS, (Boycott, Sanctions, Divestment for an End to the Occupation of Palestine), at olympiabds.org

Peter Bohmer is a community organizer and professor at the Evergreen State College.

Ali Abunimah in Olympia

by WIP News Service

Ali Abunimah, co-founder of the Electronic Intifada spoke in Olympia last month. Ali explained the current state of the Israel and Palestine land conflict in terms of a nice pizza dinner. We are hungry, the pizza comes out of the oven, it smells great, we are ready to eat, but one party is much stronger than the other party and says, no pizza until we negotiate how it will be divided. That same strong party then starts grabbing pieces and eating them as fast as they can. The stronger party slaps the hand of the weaker party if the weaker party attempts to get a piece of pizza. When the weaker party realizes there will soon be no pizza left for them, they get angry and the stronger party says, with their mouth full of pizza, what are you getting mad about? We are negotiating, aren't we?

This is the situation between Israel and Palestine. The conflict is over the seizure of Palestinian lands, the destruction of Palestinian olive groves, their agricultural and financial cornerstone, control of the acquifer and water resources and the construction of settlements on lands that are theoretically under negotiation for return to the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people have now asked the rest of the world to come to their assistance. They ask us to bring international pressure to bear on Israel through the BDS Movement.

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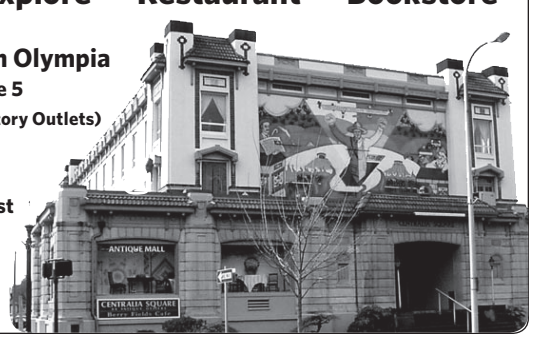

Co-op board rejects proposed Israeli product boycott

The Port Townsend Co-op board, that is

by Bethel Prescott

In a move that ignored boycott endorsements from social justice leaders such as Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Craig & Cindy Corrie, and many others, the majority of Port Townsend Co-op board members showed that when they are presented with difficult social justice issues, they are all talk and no walk. Acting in direct contrast to the third principle of the Port Townsend Co-op's mission statement which reads: "creating a model for economic, social, and environmental justice, sustainability, democracy, and integrity" and after board president Sam Gibboney met privately with an Israeli official, the Port Townsend Co-op board rejected a proposal to boycott products made in Israel.

Board member Rick Sepler motioned to reject the boycott proposal on the specious argument that Co-op policy provided means to boycott products, but not countries. Only two board members, Dan Goldstein and Dorn Campbell, voted to support the boycott. Board members Gibboney, Steve Moore and Janet Welch sided with Sepler.

Israeli Deputy Consul General Gideon Lustig flew in from San Francisco to work alongside StandWithUs astroturf "activists" to defeat the Port Townsend Co-op's proposed boycott of Israeli goods. Unsurprisingly, Lustig stated he was pleased with the results of the vote. He then repeated StandWithUs' misrepresentation of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanction movement's motives, emphasizing the false notion that the entire BDS movement is aimed at demonizing the people of Israel and destroying the state of Israel. The truth is that the goal of the BDS movement is to end the apartheid of Palestinians which has been imposed by Israel due to a U.S.-funded Israeli military policy. Proponents of the boycott movement wish to send the message that Americans do not condone oppression and violence so great that international law expert Francis Anthony Boyle has called it an undeniable genocide.

In a recent article, *Ha'aretz* reporter Nehemia Shtrasler tied the growing support for the BDS movement to Operation Cast Lead, a three week-long armed conflict during which the Isreali military lost only 13 soldiers, while well over 1,000 Palestinians - most of whom were civilians, including hundreds of children – were killed. Some Port Townsend residents were especially upset by this because of the proximity of the Naval Ammunition Depot Indian Island, just across the water south of town. It is this depot which likely supplied Israel with the US arms used in the attack.

More than a week before the Olympia Co-op announced their decision to boycott goods from Israel, five long time members of the Port Townsend Co-op joined together to bring a boycott proposal to their board.

Karma Tenzing Wangchuk explained "A couple years ago, the former depot commander told local Chamber of Commerce members 'Israel is one of our best customers.' So, if you want to support using weapons that came from Indian Island, including cluster bombs, white phosphorus, DIME (dense inert metal explosive), and depleted uranium, to kill Palestinian women and children, then you should buy Israeli. Food is political. That's why there's a boycott policy. And a lot of boycott opponents want to eradicate that policy."

Port Townsend anti-boycott voices echoed many of the same sentiments heard in Olympia. In Port Townsend, as well as in Olympia, the process to decide whether or not to support the call for a boycott was difficult for many. It was frequently claimed that the Co-op is not a place for political expression. Questions were also raised as to why there wasn't a push to boycott goods made in China. Feelings were hurt in both camps. However, every single instance of vitriol that I am aware of came from the anti-BDS crowd. Charges of anti-Semitism were bandied about, and racist comments regarding Palestinians were printed in the local papers. In Olympia there were hundreds of death threats aimed at a boycott supporter. In Port Townsend, someone spat at a boycott supporter, and a woman screamed her hope that the boycott supporters should be "taken down" in a modern Holocaust. Frequently these insults and threats were accompanied by a plea that boycott supporters "stop being divisive."

The boycott process begins with the boycott's proposers. In Port Townsend a boycott proposal may only be brought forward by Co-op members. In both Co-ops those who call for a boycott are charged with providing information about the reasons for the boycott. There is then an in-depth investigation and discussion before the boycott call is decided upon. At this point the Olympia Co-op sends the boycott proposal to the managers of the relevant departments. The managers write up recommendations which they then pass on to the whole Co-op staff. A consensus-based process is then used to discuss the merits of the boycott proposal, and eventually decide whether or not to support it. If the boycott is approved, the managers of the affected departments post a sign explaining the reasons for the boycott and the Merchandising Coordinator notifies the affected company.

The Oly Co-op relies primarily on member-volunteers to staff the store, thus this process inherently engages many of their most committed co-op members at all points in the process. The Port Townsend Co-op has a staff that is compensated in hourly wages and benefits which, although they too are certainly very committed to their Co-op, the process that is in place there is by design intended to engage a wide community discussion which, in theory, would help the board make a better informed vote.

In the first step of the Port Townsend process the board decides if the boycott proposal meets the criteria set by their boycott policy. The proposal that was rejected on Tuesday, September 21, had already passed this step. At this point, the board is responsible for educational posting in the store and providing a tabling spot in front of the store for supporters of the boycott to use in educating members about the boycott proposal. The next step is for a committee to look further into the boycott proposal and then send a recommendation to the board to either boycott the entire product line, a sub-set of products, or to decide against the boycott. In Port Townsend, a recommendation was made to the board that if Israeli products were to be boycotted, they should not include one of three kinds of peace oil on the shelves, and that efforts should be made to stock Palestinian products. Instead of following this recommendation, the board chose to reject the proposal completely.

In Port Townsend, a woman screamed her hope that the boycott supporters should be "taken down" in a modern Holocaust. Frequently these insults and threats were accompanied by a plea that boycott supporters "stop being divisive."

When you take into account the following facts...

1) Before the boycott vote occurred, the board president of the Port Townsend Co-op, Sam Gibboney - in clear violation of Port Townsend Co-op policies - met privately for at least an hour with Israeli Consul General Gideon Lustig,

2) Lustig attempted (and may have succeeded) to meet privately with Port Townsend City Manager David Timmons, who works directly with Port Townsend City Planning Director Rick Sepler,

3) Lustig was spotted in a Port Townsend coffee shop, with his attaché, and Seattle StandWithUs director Rob Jacobs huddled over their laptops planning how to manage meetings and interviews,

4) Jacobs was also involved in organizing the anti-boycott rallies outside the Olympia Co-op,

...then the similarities of the anti-boycott arguments which were widely used in both communities, and the failure of the Port Townsend Co-op to vote for the boycott is not a mystery.

Indeed, it is clear that the major difference between the Port Townsend Co-op's BDS boycott process and that of Olympia's is the level of forthrightness and good faith in the process. Olympia's process shined like a gold star on a favored child's report card, and Port Townsend's process, which allowed outside influences to intimidate and manipulate the process in order to achieve what one Seattle based pro-Israel organizer has declared a "victory" failed miserably.

Boycott advocates in Port Townsend point out that although the vote has been cast, the process is not yet over. There is still some light shining around the edges of this very dark cloud. The Port Townsend Co-op boycott policy flatly states that even when a boycott proposal is rejected, educational posting of the issues involved will continue. This will help the movement grow. One day soon, according to Wangchuk, "Israel will have to do a lot more than send some deputy general consul here to cover up Israel's crimes against humanity and try to help our co-op board do the wrong thing." He went on to say "It's been good to see and work with some of my old Olympia pals on this. I expect we'll do great things down the road, and have a lot of fun while we're at it."

Back at 'cha, my friend.... Right back at 'cha.

Death Threats

It has been widely reported that Olympia BDS organizers have received death threats in the wake of the successful campaign to boycott Israeli products at the Olympia Food Co-op. However, the nature of these threats are not always elaborated on. *Works In Progress* would like to clarify some specifics.

One BDS organizer has received over 150 death threats, directed at him personally, via phone calls. Caller ID showed that the majority of these calls came directly from Israel.

One person in Co-op administration, who is not affiliated with Olympia BDS, has also personally received a comparable number of death threats by phone. This person does not have caller ID, and the origins of these calls is unknown.

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Stephanie Snyder-Soulseed, cofounder of Love and Communities, in a field of flowers on her wedding day.
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1,000 more excuses to support the oppression of Palestinians

Responding to anti-boycott hype in Works in Progress

by Phan Nguyen

In the Aug. 2010 *Works In Progress*, I wrote a lengthy FAQ to address opposition to the Olympia Food Co-op's boycott of Israeli goods. One question that I failed to address was, "Why are there so many arguments against the boycott?"

Usually when one has a compelling reason to oppose or support an issue, the reason can be encapsulated into a single premise. For instance, the basic reason to support the boycott is Palestinian human rights. The basic reason why abortion should remain legal is a woman's right to choose. The basic reason to support same-sex marriage is equality.

On the other hand, if one does not have a compelling reason to take a particular stance—or if one seeks to conceal their true motives for taking a particular stance—then the common strategy is to pile on disparate arguments with the expectation that although no single argument is compelling enough, several unrelated less-compelling arguments can drown the opposition.

For instance, opponents of marriage equality seldom admit that the nature of their opposition is homophobia. So instead, they employ several unrelated arguments: Same-sex marriage will destroy the "sanctity of marriage," it will break up families, it will increase the spread of HIV, it promotes an exclusive "gay agenda," it subverts the role of marriage in procreation, it will overburden the social security system, it will force heterosexual couples to compete with same-sex couples on adoption, it is a slippery slope, etc.

Some of the arguments may be more compelling than others. The idea is to pitch all possible arguments and expect that at least some of the arguments will stick. In any case, the other side will be distracted by having to counter so many different arguments. It's the quantity, not the quality, of arguments that matter.

This transforms a simple concept such as marriage equality into a complicated issue that requires justification. Creationists also employ a similar strategy to subvert the theory of evolution. Instead of promoting the Bible's story of Genesis, which is a harder sell, creationists have resorted to undermining evolution not by challenging it directly as the most plausible theory to date, but by introducing additional variables under the guise of "intelligent design" and purposely complicating the issue.

Similar tactics are employed to undermine the concept of anthropogenic climate change. By producing contrary scientific studies, however tenuous, special interest groups manage to turn a near-scientific consensus into an issue of controversy and dispute in which participants are accused of inappropriately "taking sides" and compelled to proffer "balance."

This explains the multiplicity of arguments designed to minimize Palestinian human rights. What should be a basic premise—Palestinians are human beings deserving of freedom, human rights, and dignity—is obscured by an incessant barrage of disparate arguments that seek to divert the subject and complicate the issue: it's controversial, it's divisive, the process was wrong, Israel invented the cell phone, Adam Sandler wasn't consulted, etc. You may address the first twenty arguments, but opponents will just create twenty more arguments.

If one does not have a compelling reason to take a particular stance—or if one seeks to conceal their true motives—then the common strategy is to pile on disparate arguments with the expectation that although no single argument is compelling enough, several unrelated less-compelling arguments can drown the opposition.

Moreover, these pseudo-arguments act as proxy arguments to conceal the true nature of one's opposition. Just as support for the boycott has a simple premise—Palestinian human rights—most opposition to the boycott has a simple premise, but it is intentionally obscured by the pseudo-arguments. The unspoken premise is that opposition to the boycott is largely based on an instinctive defense of Israel.

This does not mean that all the above political subjects are simple. They aren't. There are always complicated variables and exceptions. However, the basic premises and values—whether human rights, equality, or the right to choose—do not falter simply because we discover additional complications. The issues may become complicated, but they should be guided by our values, not vice versa.

It is therefore necessary to hack through many of these deliberately imposed obstacles in order to discover what the obstacles are meant to conceal.

With this goal in mind, I address here the many attacks on the Olympia Food Co-op's boycott of Israeli goods that were published in Sept. 2010 WIP (all the articles referenced are available at *www.olywip.org*).

In these many attacks on the boycott, the basic premise of Palestinian human rights, for which the boycott was instituted, is never directly challenged. Yet implicit in these attacks is the premise that advocating for Palestinian rights is somehow shameful.

Defending Israel the long way

Haim Strasbourger in a published letter to *WIP* recounts his recent visit to Olympia from Federal Way, intrigued by the Co-op's boycott. Despite claiming to have read the Aug. 2010 issue, Strasbourger proceeds to recite the anti-boycott common talking points already addressed in that issue.

Thus he exploits the suffering of people in diverse locales as Norway, Morocco, Jamaica, Brazil, China, Zimbabwe, and Cuba. Strasbourger also claims that Israel is "one of the few safe havens in the Middle East for the gay and lesbian community."

Yet are we really expected to believe that Haim Strasbourger of Federal Way traveled to Olympia out of grave concern for gays and lesbians in the Middle East?

A joint statement by several Middle Eastern queer groups explicitly said, "We refuse to be instrumentalized by anyone, be it our own oppressive governments or the Zionist lobby hijacking our struggle [in order to] to legitimize the state of Israel and its policies...If you want to learn about our movements and struggles, engage with us, rather than with those who will use us as pawns in Israel's campaign to pinkwash its crimes."

Meanwhile, Susan Trinin's WIP article disregards conventional prose and resorts to stream-of-consciousness opposition to the boycott, with repeated references to "turds" and "sandboxes."

In the rare instances where facts are asserted in the article, the facts are mostly wrong: For instance, there is confusion between the Arab countries of Syria and Jordan. UN General Assembly Resolution 194 is claimed to refer to the exodus of Jews from Arab countries despite the fact that 194 passed *before* the exodus.

A joint statement by several Middle Eastern queer groups said, "We refuse to be instrumentalized by anyone[...][in order to] to legitimize the state of Israel and its policies."

In other instances, Susan inadvertently expresses support for the boycott, as when she calls on the community to "clear out some of the turds in our own [sandbox]," such as "our proxies [that] kill and maim many innocents each day." She also urges us to direct our energies "to end illegal and immoral wars supported by our tax dollars." Both examples accurately describe Israel's oppression of the Palestinians.

Otherwise, Susan resorts to the standard cynical exploitation of indigenous oppression. She excuses Israel's ongoing ethnic cleansing of Palestinians as "complicated," like "our occupation of Native Lands"—as if that somehow legitimizes either or both.

Susan's 1,700-word article references the US Constitution, Jean-Paul Sartre, Oman, "insurance conglomerates," and "turds aplenty"—all to explain her opposition to the boycott. As with Haim Strasbourger's letter, Susan deliberately conceals the real reason she opposes the boycott—namely, her personal affinity to Israel.

An interesting byproduct of Palestine activism is that when you publicly criticize Israel, people all around you suddenly discover human rights abuses all over the world and expect *you* (not them) to do something about everything else that is wrong with the world and ignore Palestinians.

Both Haim Strasbourger's and Susan Trinin's pieces demonstrate a willingness to cynically exploit all sorts of world problems simply to deflect from criticism of Israel. Thus Strasbourger feigns sympathy for Jamaica and queers in the Middle East, while Susan calls on the Co-op to rescind the Israel boycott in favor of "address[ing] the secret/underground national security government," whatever that means.

If opponents of the boycott were more forthright about their concerns, perhaps we could address their concerns seriously and directly. However, most opponents would rather make dismissive and tokenizing comparisons to Native people in the abstract, rather than explain why we should continue to support Israel in its oppression of Palestinians.

In perhaps the clearest demonstration of how much she dismisses her own words, Susan ends her article by criticizing the role of the Co-op board of directors as "imperialist" and "oligarchical." Following publication of the article, Susan applied to run for the Co-op board.

Reclaiming white male privilege for Jews

Taking a different tactic, Andras Jones avoids mention of the boycott in his *WIP* article, "Jewish Oppression in Olympia: One Kike's Opinion," except to dismiss it as a "farce." The true problem, Andras writes, is anti-Jewish oppression in major Olympia institutions.

According to his *WIP* article, Andras "was a mild mannered Jew, just wondering why things were so difficult for me" in Olympia, until he realized that the Olympia Film Society, KAOS, and the Olympia Food Co-op were oppressing him as a Jew.

Andras jokes of having "been Kike-ing it up something fierce at the Co-op," by which he means accosting Co-op staff at their work. He boasts that his actions "freak[] people out, which, to me, looks like a sign of guilt" and then claims that "[i]f they're feeling guilty maybe it's because they have some confused or conflicted feelings about Jews." Thus, Co-op staff who express discomfort at Andras' aggression are exhibiting anti-Semitism rather than feeling uncomfortable about being confronted by an angry white male.

I strongly agree that anti-Semitism exists, but I don't believe conflating white male privilege with supposed Jewish pride necessarily promotes awareness. In fact, doing so demeans not only true instances of anti-Semitism but actual incidents of racism in general—not to mention being oppressive against the seemingly arbitrary subjects of Andras' aggression. To solidify the irony, Andras flagrantly asserts his white male privilege not only in the name of Judaism but also in the name of Riot Grrrl.

The fact that Andras boasted of accosting Co-op staff "something fierce" and then filed a grievance because the staff

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refused to accede to his aggressive self-proclaimed "Kike-ness" underscores the privilege inherent in his actions.

A progressive critique that is neither progressive nor a critique

Unlike the previous *WIP* contributors who are inclined to lecture activists but fail to lead by example, Marco Rosaire Rossi is a dedicated activist who has demonstrated a willingness to take action for Palestinian rights. I respect the work that Marco has done in the past and have had the privilege of engaging in activist work with him. This only makes his contribution to the Sept. 2010 *WIP* downright confounding.

Billed as a progressive critique of BDS, Marco's article employs the most trivial, contradictory, and nonsensical arguments to express his disapproval of the global BDS movement, only to conclude by supporting a boycott of Israel after all, but on his "superior" terms. Thus his article seems more an exercise in arrogance and sophistry.

Having not lived in Olympia for years, Marco relied on conversations with a single Co-op staff member and a few "close friends" in Olympia to inform him of the local situation. His article clearly shows that these conversations were inadequate to develop a reasonable picture.

The article claims to be not "against any BDS campaign," but directed at the BDS movement in general. Yet it was written as an open letter to the Co-op board and submitted to *WIP*, and it concludes with recommendations for the board. So it cannot be separated from the Olympia context, as Marco insists.

His article differs from the others because he genuinely considers Palestinian human rights paramount. Yet his 5,600-word article resembles the others by compiling disparate semi-arguments rather than promoting a single compelling argument that unifies the piece.

The number of bold contradictions and the amount of space responding to arguments that nobody has made is astounding. I do not have the space to address the many divergent arguments he makes, so I will provide a sampling that demonstrates the flaws of his basic premises.

Myth: BDS is a cult

Marco makes references to BDS being a "cult" or having "cult-like" qualities, yet he never clearly identifies what this means, except to cite Norman Finkelstein, whom he clearly respects. However, Finkelstein is renowned for his impeccable scholarship, not for his abilities as an activist organizer, much less his social skills. When it comes to BDS, Finkelstein is only able to joke that BDS is "cult-like" because it uses "in-group abbreviations." BDS is simply an abbreviation for a set of tactics: boycott, divestment, and sanctions. Abbreviating it is a matter of economy, not exclusivity. The term is also used by BDS opponents and printed as-is in Hebrew-language press.

Marco claims that BDS is merely a "feel good" tactic, which he compares to "throwing a brick through a window," but he doesn't bother to qualify this statement, except by employing the following straw man argument: "Supporters claim that these actions are mostly designed to be symbolic."

I personally do not believe BDS to be merely symbolic, and I do not know any BDS organizer who does. In my nine years of Palestine activism, BDS has been the most productive tactic that I've seen employed by activists internationally. If it is merely symbolic, then the Israeli Consulate wouldn't be so involved in Olympia and in the Port Townsend co-op's consideration of boycott. If it is merely symbolic, then Israel wouldn't be arresting Palestinian BDS leaders and considering legislation to outlaw advocacy of BDS in Israel. If it is symbolic, then Israeli press wouldn't have so much coverage of it. *Ha'aretz*' leading economics correspondent Nehemia Shtrasler recently began an article about BDS by saying, "The sums involved are not large, but their international significance is huge."

Yet a significant portion of Marco's article is based on the premise that BDS is merely symbolic. Shtrasler informs his Israeli readers that "[t]he world is changing before our eyes." BDS is gaining ground because "[n]o public-relations machine in the world could explain the deaths of hundreds of children, the destruction of neighborhoods and the grinding poverty afflicting a people under curfew for years."

Marco's article employs the most trivial, contradictory, and nonsensical arguments to express his disapproval of the global BDS movement, only to conclude by supporting a boycott of Israel after all, but on his "superior" terms.

Meanwhile, oblivious to this changing world, Marco continues to respond in a monologue with his straw man: "[I]f these actions are symbolic then we must question the symbolism that we are projecting."

I have repeatedly stated that BDS is a tactic, not a dogma. This has also been stressed by prominent supporters of BDS, such as Naomi Klein, John Berger, and Neve Gordon. Yet Marco, in conversation with his straw man, ignores these assertions and scolds the BDS movement for treating BDS as a dogma, not a tactic.

Myth: BDS is not nonviolent

Marco disputes the description of BDS as nonviolent because, as he claims, "no action ever [is]...by nature inherently nonviolent." In other words, BDS is not nonviolent because nothing is "inherently nonviolent." Um, fine. His point?

According to Marco, "Nonviolence, as a tradition, seems to have very little to do with specific actions and is more about carving out a set of principles to guide actions...[A]ny boycott, if it is to follow within the tradition to nonviolence, must aim to convert people to a cause through forms of self-sacrifice and non-cooperation."

However, there is a difference between the adjective "nonviolent," which is used to explain the physical characteristic of a tactic, and the noun "nonviolence," which, as used by Marco, describes a specific ideology of pacifism. Marco thoughtlessly conflates the two.

BDS is a *nonviolent act*, but that does not mean must ascribe to any particular philosophy of *nonviolence*.

In fact, Marco's limited definition of nonviolence would even exclude the concepts promoted by Gene Sharp in his seminal *Politics of Nonviolent Action*.

Thus, Marco relies on careless semantic confusion in order to eke out a weak argument. The irony is that Marco first criticizes BDS as a "cult" for supposedly being a principle, not a tactic. Then he insists that BDS must follow a principle rather than be a mere tactic.

Myth: BDS kills

Marco attests that BDS can be "used for malicious reasons." But so can a paperweight. He compares BDS to the Cuba embargo and the siege on Gaza. "What can be done to Cuba and Gaza can also be done to Israel," writes Marco. "[A] person must look at the specifics of the case to determine if this is so." Okay, then why doesn't Marco do so? Let's "look at the specifics" and compare the international BDS campaign to Israel's closure of Gaza, *exactly as Marco suggests*:

Unlike Israel's closure of Gaza, the international BDS movement does not controlling Israel's borders. Unlike Gaza, BDS does not set up a vague "buffer zone" and kill civilians who reside near this zone. It does not prevent Israelis from fishing. It does not count the necessary caloric intake of Israelis and joke about putting Israelis on a diet. It does not prevent Israel from producing its own food. It does not restrict Israelis from moving about. It does not deport Jews to Israel. It does not restrict access to drinking water and electricity. It does not make routine incursions into Israel to drop bombs or fire artillery or assassinate people.

Unlike Israeli's closure of Gaza, no one has been killed by the BDS movement. No Israeli will be malnourished because of BDS.

Marco continues with his straw man arguments: "[I]t is important to ask how much is it in tune with the idea of nonviolence to wish that Israelis feel the same anguish that Palestinians feel? That somehow the fact that Palestinians feel scared and isolated justifies making Israelis feel similarly."

We do not "wish that Israelis feel the same anguish that Palestinians feel." Moreover, Palestinians are not simply "scared and isolated." They are physically imprisoned and deprived, their access to basic life needs are restricted. The international BDS movement cannot make Israel feel what the Palestinians feel, nor is that the intent.

The original Palestinian call for BDS was signed by over 170 Palestinian civil society organizations representing the three pillars of Palestinian national identity: Palestinians living in the Occupied Territories, Palestinians living in Israel, and Palestinians in the diaspora.

Once again, Marco's expectations of BDS are contradictory: BDS must not be an ideology; BDS must follow the strict ideology of nonviolence. BDS is merely symbolic; BDS can destroy.

Myth: Amnesty International (AI) supports boycotts but not a boycott of Israel

In order to demonstrate widespread rejection of BDS, Marco states, "Amnesty International has called for an arms embargo on [Israel] (which in a way is actually a boycott of US military companies) but not a boycott of the whole country."

The implication is that AI is willing to apply a selective boycott on US companies but not a general boycott on Israel and thus a boycott of Israel is wrong. There are two flaws to this argument:

1. Marco claims that AI's call for an arms embargo on Israel "in a way is actually a boycott of US military companies." *That makes absolutely no sense.* Amnesty called on the world to cease arms transfers to Israel. Amnesty did not call on the world to not buy from US military companies. The logic in that assertion is inconceivable, and Marco never explains how he derives that unique interpretation.

2. As a matter of policy, Amnesty does not call for boycotts ever. To quote one AI press release: "Amnesty International has taken no position on boycotts anywhere in the world." AI official Keith Rimstad elaborated further: "Amnesty has no position on boycotts or sanctions. We don't take a position either for or against. There is the issue, though, of arms transfers."

Thus AI regularly issues calls against arms transfers but does not consider addressing boycotts a part of its role. Marco's argument is either deliberately dishonest or flagrantly careless. I'm inclined to believe the latter, although either possibility signals an acute desperation for arguments. He might as well have said that Israel invented the cell phone.

Myth: BDS is unrepresentative of Palestinians

Marco attacks the Palestinian-based BDS National Committee (BNC) as undemocratic. He acknowledges that the BNC is a "broad coalition of Palestinian organizations," but questions the representation of the BNC because "[t]hey don't have referendums, or regularly poll the population to determine the next course of actions." Thus, the BNC lacks "democratic provisions or ways to include all of Palestine."

By Marco's standards, no group can adequately represent Palestinians—certainly not the Palestinian Authority, which cancelled elections with the support of Israel and the United States. Does that mean activists should not listen to the oppressed because they can't get their act together? What exactly does Marco expect from the Palestinians?

This criticism that the BNC does not hold referendums is yet another petty argument.

First, it must be noted that the BNC serves as a sort of steering committee that provides guidelines and suggestions, proposes coordination of events, and offers media assistance, but it does not actually dictate the BDS campaigns around the world. The BNC is the closest thing to a centralized committee, but the worldwide BDS campaign itself remains grassroots and decentralized. So for instance, Olympia activists did not ask for or receive direction from the BNC to campaign for the Co-op boycott. I say this not to disparage the work of the BNC but to dispel rumors that the Co-op's boycott was the work of "outside agitators" (Incidentally, this rumor was spread around town by an outside anti-BDS agitator).

The original Palestinian call for BDS was signed by over 170 Palestinian civil society organizations representing the three pillars of Palestinian national identity: Palestinians living in the Occupied Territories, Palestinians living in Israel, and Palestinians in the diaspora. No other Palestinian movement has had such a broad coalition, representing trade unions, women's groups, organizations for the disabled, popular resistance committees, human rights groups, and more. The BNC itself is comprised of representatives of several of these groups.

As with other long-oppressed groups and particularly due to Israeli and US designs, Palestinian society is seriously fragmented. There is much infighting

▸ **PALESTINIANS,** continued on page 14

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Updates on Rachel Corrie case

Compiled by WIP News Service

The following is a chronological progression of press releases from the Corrie Foundation updating the Corries' trial against Israel in the death of their daughter, Rachel. The press releases were condensed to phase out redundancy and can be read in full at rachelcorriefoundation.org

Israeli court resumes trial in killing of Rachel Corrie

Haifa, Israel – On September 5th, the Haifa District Court will resume hearing testimonies in a civil lawsuit filed by Rachel Corrie's family against the State of Israel for her unlawful killing in Rafah, Gaza. Rachel Corrie, a United States student activist and human rights defender from Olympia, Washington, was crushed to death on March 16, 2003, by a Caterpillar D9R bulldozer while nonviolently protesting Palestinian home demolitions with fellow members of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM). The second phase of the trial is expected to shed more light on the circumstances of her death and the Israeli government failure to conduct a thorough, credible and transparent investigation into her killing.

Thirteen affidavits have been submitted by the State, including those from both the driver and commander in the bulldozer that ran over Corrie, and from other military personnel involved.

"As the trial in the killing of our daughter Rachel resumes in Haifa, we look forward to hearing from the State's witnesses," said Rachel's father, Craig Corrie. "For seven years our family has asked the Government of Israel to provide a complete, credible, and truthful explanation for the killing of our daughter. We hope and demand they will take this opportunity to provide one."

Cindy Corrie added,"If the peace process unfolding in Washington, D.C. is to have any hope of success, the pursuit of truth, accountability, and justice for all the suffering that has occurred in this land must proceed with determination. We look forward to that happening in Rachel's case."

The lawsuit charges that Rachel Corrie's killing was intentional. Alternately, it charges that the Israeli government is responsible for negligence of Israeli soldiers and military commanders who acted recklessly using an armored military bulldozer without due regard and due diligence to presence of unarmed and nonviolent civilians and who failed to take appropriate and necessary measures to protect Rachel's life, in violation of obligations under Israeli and international law.

The government of Israel argues that Rachel Corrie's killing took place in the course of armed conflict in a closed military zone and should be considered an "Act of War," or "War Operation," absolving the soldiers responsible from liability under Israeli law. The government argued for dismissal stating that the Israeli government is immune from such a lawsuit based on controversial legal theory that actions of the Israeli army in Rafah, Gaza, should be considered "Acts of State." Finally, the Israeli government argues that Rachel Corrie acted in reckless disregard of her life and was responsible for her own death.

"After seven years Rachel Corrie's family will have the chance to hear the testimonies of those who were responsible for her death," said Attorney Hussein abu Hussein, who represents the family. "This civil trial is an important step to hold accountable not only those who failed to protect Rachel's life but also the flawed system of military investigations which is neither impartial nor thorough."

Flaws in military investigation revealed

September 5th -- Today marked the beginning of the State's testimony.

The first state witness, a Military Police investigator known to the court as Oded, was part of a three-person team that investigated Rachel's killing. Oded corroborated much of the testimony provided by El'ad, an investigator who testified in March, and added additional details about the inadequacy of the investigation.

• Oded confirmed that a commander of the unit involved in Rachel's killing interrupted the questioning of the bulldozer operator, telling him that Doron Almog, head of the Israeli military's Southern Command, had ordered that the questioning cease. He also said that, in his experience, interference of this nature from military commanders was not uncommon.

• When asked why he did not challenge the intervention, Oded said that as a junior investigator, it was not his place to do so. He was twenty-years old at the time, with only a high-school education and three-months of training in investigation.

"After seven years Rachel Corrie's family will have the chance to hear the testimonies of those who were responsible for her death,"

• Corrie's case was the first civilian killing that Oded investigated from beginning to end.

• Like El'ad, Oded stated that neither he nor any other investigator visited the site of the killing.

• Oded said that he did not obtain the video-audio recording from the military surveillance camera which filmed 24/7 until March 23rd, a week after he began the investigation.

• Oded said he did not request the video-audio recording with radio transmissions of the two bulldozer drivers and commanders from the hours leading up to the incident, transmissions which might have provided further context to the killing. Oded stated he did not believe they were relevant, even though Rachel and her friends from the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) were protesting the bulldozer activity for several hours prior to her death.

• When military police transcribed the radio transmissions, they failed to include an exchange in Arabic in which one soldier said, "Yem mawatu!" which in English means, "What, did you kill him?!" and another soldier replied, "Allah Yerhamo," "May God have mercy on him." When asked about the discrepancy, Oded said that he did not understand Arabic and the investigation team did not think it was important. Oded testified that none of the investigators interviewed any of the Palestinian witnesses – including medical personnel who examined Rachel immediately following the incident. When asked why, he said he did not think they could provide any useful information.

According to a 2005 Human Rights Watch Report, Israel's military investigative system is not independent, impartial or thorough. The military rarely has brought wrongdoers to justice, and existing practices have exerted little deterrent effect. Furthermore, the report found that the system is opaque, cumbersome, and open to command pressure.

"Our family and the US government's long standing position has been that there was never a thorough, credible and transparent investigation. Today's testimony further confirms that stand," said Sarah Corrie Simpson, Rachel's sister.

Attending the trial today were the US Consul General, Andrew Parker, and representatives from Al Haq and Adalah, human rights organizations based respectively in Ramallah and Haifa.

"There are no civilians in war zones."

September 6th – Several State witnesses testified in Haifa District Court on Monday.

One of the witnesses, known to the court as Yossi, was a Colonel in the Engineering Corps. He was responsible for writing operating manuals for military bulldozers and other equipment. He also conducted a simulation of what the bulldozer driver would have been able to see. In his testimony:

• He repeatedly insisted that there are no civilians in a war zone. His assertion disregards the reality in the Palestinian Occupied Territories as well as international humanitarian law, which was created to protect civilians in armed conflict situations.

• Yossi contradicted his own March 2003 testimony, given to military investigators, that the armored personnel carrier (APC) at the incident was intended to protect both soldiers and civilians. Today, he said the APC was there only for the safety of the drivers.

• In his affidavit, Yossi wrote that he conducted a reenactment of the incident. However, he testified today that he did not reenact the scene, but rather filmed a bulldozer of the same model with a bulldozer operator, and another soldier, to get a sense of what the operator at the incident might have seen. He also said he did not view the military's surveillance video of the incident in creating his simulation.

• Yossi claimed that the manual on operating instructions for mechanical engineering equipment in low intensity conflict did not apply to real conflict situations, but rather only in training and administrative activities.

• Yossi stated that the bulldozer driver and commander have the exact same field of vision and that the commander sat at the same level as the driver, contradicting the government's expert witness, who stated that the commander had a better field of vision because he sat higher.

Another witness for the state, Major Yoram Manchori, testified as an expert witness on the bulldozer's field of vision. He was responsible for purchasing heavy engineering equipment and readying it for military use. In May 2010, he created an animated simulation of what the bulldozer driver and commander's vision might have been.

• Manchori insisted he used in the simulation a bulldozer identical to the one that killed Rachel. However, the bulldozer he used had multiple bars on its windows, whereas the bulldozer that struck Rachel had no bars. Upon being informed of this discrepancy, he claimed that the bars did not impact visibility.

• He conducted his simulation on terrain that was very different than the terrain at the scene.

• He determined the simulated location of the bulldozers based on eyewitness recollections given over 7 years after the incident. He did not cross-check them with eyewitness accounts from the time of the killing, nor did he view the military surveillance video of the incident.

• Manchori testified that the price of a Caterpillar D9R bulldozer is currently $700,000 and the cost of arming it is an additional $200,000 – $250,000, figures not previously disclosed. In light of this, it is now known that the cost of mounting a camera, which is often cited as being prohibitively expensive, would be less than 10% of the price of the bulldozer itself.

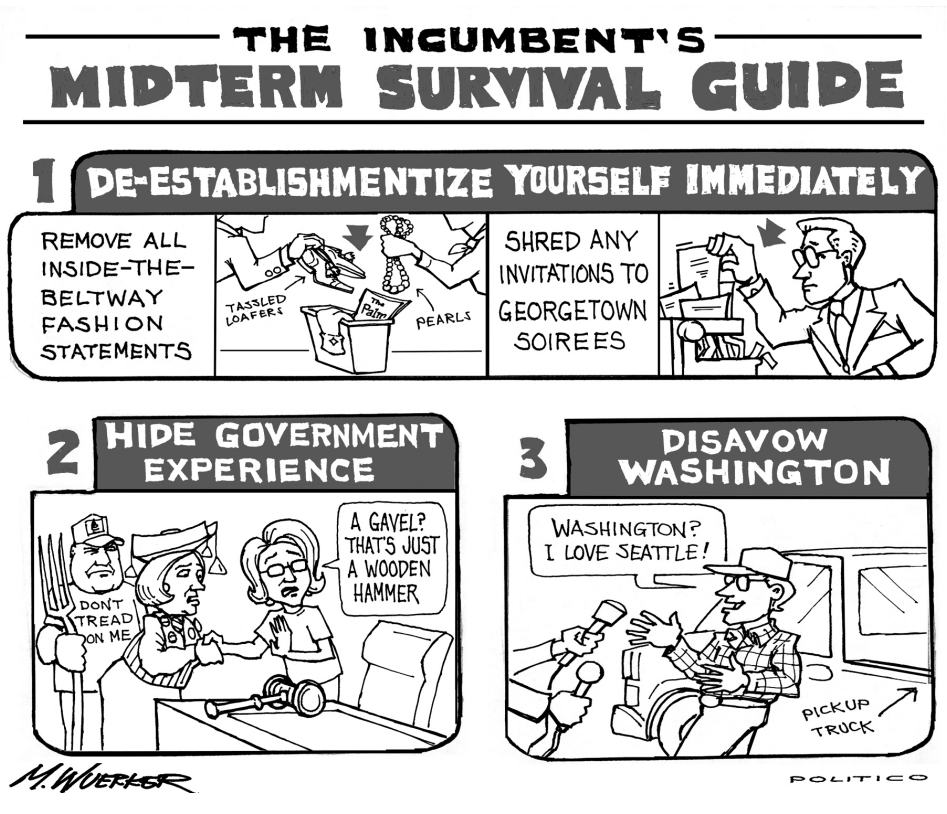
• Manchori testified that after Rachel's death the Israeli military installed cameras on one bulldozer but due to the high cost, limited increase in field vision and other problems, the installation was discontinued.

• Manchori testified that prior to Corrie's killing, the Israeli military tested the D9R bulldozer field of vision and that he personally had sent three charts of the results to the military investigators in March 2003. In court today, the Corries' lawyer requested to obtain a copy of this report, stating that he needed it in order to analyze the bulldozer visibility claims made in the military police investigation of Rachel's killing. The State argued that the report was classified and should not be allowed into evidence, although the Israeli Supreme Court previously ruled that this report was relevant to the case. Judge Gershon upheld the State's argument.

Regarding the multiple references that there are no civilians in war zones, Cindy Corrie, Rachel's mother said, "This was startling to our family, and to others in the courtroom. Rafah is a densely populated town. In fact, Rachel was killed defending the home of two Palestinian families-a pharmacist, an accountant, their wives and small children. It was extremely troubling for their existence to be categorically denied."

Court today was attended by representatives from the US Embassy, Human Rights Watch and Adalah, a legal and human rights organization.

The trial is slated to resume in October, when the bulldozer driver, the bulldozer commander, and the head of the military police team that investigated Rachel's killing are expected to testify.



Understanding and responding to the global economic crisis

Part 1

by Peter Bohmer

We are living in a world where the people of most countries are suffering from high unemployment, heightened job insecurity, continuing and obscene inequalities of wealth and income both within most countries, and between the global North and global South, with widespread hunger and poverty. Most of the corporate and government elites are claiming that the major economic problems right now are large government deficits and government debt; and that government spending for pensions, for public sector wages, and for social programs must be cut back. Greece, in order to get loans from the IMF and European Union is consciously following these austerity policies. By cutting consumer, business, and government demand, these inhumane and unnecessary austerity policies are causing the already high unemployment and poverty to worsen and grow towards 15-20% in the next few years, with output, GDP, and real incomes and wages also falling. The unemployment rate for young people in Greece is even more unacceptable, more than twice the overall rate. Jean Claude-Trichet, the President of the European Central Bank, is calling for further and deeper cuts in government spending throughout the world as did the G-20 in their meetings in Toronto in June, 2010.

In the United States, where I live, the official unemployment rate is almost 10%; when we also count those who have given up looking for work and those who want to work full-time and can't, the real unemployment rate climbs to 17%. The unemployment rate is almost twice that for African-Americans than for whites. The already inadequate social welfare programs and education spending in the U.S. are being further cut as many are primarily funded by city and State governments whose revenues have fallen because of the recession/depression, meaning they have to cut back on their spending since by law, they must balance their budgets. Teachers are being laid off, parks are closing, and public transportation is being cut back as are many programs for the poor such as health care and food assistance. Immigrants are being scapegoated.

I will make some comments on the causes of the current economic crisis, the inadequate and wrong responses by most governments, the likely economic situation in the near future, and what we should be demanding and organizing and mobilizing for in the immediate future and beyond. What happens in Greece is particularly important for people all over the world. The citizens of Greece are facing some of the most serious cutbacks in employment and standard of living, but, by their resistance, they are also an inspiration to those around the world who believe another world is necessary and possible. When I told friends in the United States I was going to Greece, they said I was very lucky as they consider Greece, and particularly the anti-authoritarian current, as leading the fight against this global crisis from which we have much to learn.

Neoliberalism

Since the late 1970's, we have been living in a global neoliberal system, what is often called globalization. In 1979, Margaret Thatcher, the prime minister of Great Britain claimed, "There is No Alternative" (TINA) to this form of globalization. The creation of this unequal world system was and is a conscious response by those in power, and especially the financial sector, to restore and increase profits. Global neoliberalism was a response against movements in the Global South or third world who were demanding a new international economic order for fair trade and for a fairer global economic system where the wealth would not flow from the third world to the first world multinationals. Global and national neoliberalism was also a planned response by corporate leaders and their academic and think-tank apologists, along with pro-corporate politicians and the political parties they lead to restore and increase corporate profits by creating so-called flexible labor by weakening workers' bargaining power and disciplining labor by means of higher unemployment rates, weaker unions, reduced social programs, reducing the real minimum wage, and making it easier to fire workers. The threat and reality of capital flight has further weakened labor's bargaining power.

The creation of this unequal world system was and is a conscious response by those in power, and especially the financial sector, to restore, and increase profits.

They use words such as free trade and deregulation to disguise the neoliberal capitalist reality of money of the wealthy flowing across borders to make the highest returns; of multinationals moving their capital to where they can make the highest profits and cause a race to the bottom in wages and benefits, environmental regulations, and taxes. It has meant privatizing public services and production such as the current effort to privatize the trains in Greece and in the United States, making people pay more out of their often-shrinking incomes for public education, health care and public transportation. Taxes on corporations and the wealthy have shrunk while retirement benefits and the quality and accessibility of most social programs have declined. The market is worshipped; public production is demonized. In the United States, the part of the government that is growing is the repressive side—the military, the prisons and the police. It is also becoming privatized, with corporations of mercenaries such as Blackwater (now known as "XE Services") and the growth of private prisons.

Neoliberalism is simultaneously a global system with institutions like the IMF, World Bank and World Trade Organization, a complementary structure at the regional level, (e.g., The European Union and the North American Free Trade Organization), and a national system. There are important differences at the national level; the social wage or social programs (e.g., access to health care) is more limited and expensive in the United States than in most of Europe. Because of popular resistance and because it started at a more generous level, the destruction of social welfare has been partial and advanced less in most of Europe than in the United States, New Zealand, the countries of the former Soviet Bloc and much of Latin America. An aspect of the current call for balanced budgets by those in power is in reality a call for further shrinking social programs that benefit the popular classes. Let us not allow this to happen.

In Latin America, the battering ram to transform economies to neoliberal ones was in some cases brutal military dictatorships such as in Chile and Argentina in the mid 1970's. In other cases, Mexico and Venezuela, the immediate cause was the "third-world" debt crisis: the inability to pay the skyrocketing interest costs on the countrys' loans to foreign creditors. In 1982, when the Mexican government declared they did not have sufficient dollars to pay off the interest payments that were due to large banks, mainly U.S. ones, they were granted new loans on the condition that they would move their economy in a market-oriented and privatizing direction called "structural adjustment." This pattern of having to accept the neoliberal agenda in order to receive loans of dollars and other internationally accepted currencies was repeated in country after country—in Latin America, most of Sub-Saharan Africa, in the Philippines and since 1991, in most of what had been the Soviet Union. Just as the ruling party in Mexico in the early 1990's supported the North American Free Trade Agreement, a treaty to lock in neoliberalism, neoliberal policies, and structures was not only imposed by the United States and the IMF; they were also promoted and instituted by internal, national advocates of neoliberalism. For example, in Mexico and Latin America, those who hoped to be managers in foreign firms and buy imported luxury goods promoted this transformation. We should challenge both the national and international organizers of neoliberalism and the related structural adjustment policies.

The impact of these policies on the lives of the popular classes has been very damaging. The 1980's were called the lost decade in Latin America; real wages fell and poverty and economic inequality between the rich and poor grew and grew, and burdens on women increased as the time and labor to maintain households (e.g., the price of public transportation) increased while family income decreased.

Fortunately, this isn't the end of the story. Neoliberalism is being challenged in major ways in Latin America. Growing social movements, often community-based, often indigenous, and also many governments in power and parties vying for power, have become a strong and inspiring and powerful popular current confronting neoliberalism, U.S. domination and U.S. foreign policy (e.g., the U.S. blockade of Cuba). Venezuela is the most clear cut case of this challenge, but it is also happening in Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Argentina. These changes are uneven and incomplete, and sometimes more in rhetoric than reality. There are setbacks such as the 2009 military coup in Honduras, but what is going on is a very hopeful sign for the people of this region and the entire world. For example, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA), originally started by Cuba and Venezuela in 2004, now includes eight countries that are working on developing fair trade relations and cooperation, and are establishing a currency, the Sucre, to replace the dollar for international trade between them. The cracks and resistance and alternatives to neoliberalism are growing and deepening. In Venezuela, many of the social movements as well as President Hugo Chávez have moved beyond targeting neoliberalism as the underlying cause of poverty and vast inequality. They are now naming capitalism as the system that causes oppression and are calling for and working to construct socialism for the 21st century.

Growing social movements in Latin America, often community-based, often indigenous, and also many governments in power and parties vying for power, have become a strong and inspiring and powerful popular current confronting neoliberalism, U.S. domination and U.S. foreign policy.

The Current Economic Crisis

The current economic crisis is in some ways a replay of the political economic situation of the early 1980's. For example, the official unemployment rate in the United States in 1982 was over 10%, similar to today, and social programs were being cut as military spending and aggression were increasing. Most major banks in the United States in the early 1980's would have gone bankrupt if some of the third world countries such as Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and the Philippines had defaulted on their debts to these banks. These countries could not pay the rapidly rising interest rates being set by the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States which then caused the interest rates on their loans to skyrocket. These economic policies caused severe hardship in the United States, but even worse problems in heavily indebted countries such as Mexico and the Philippines. In Europe, the capitalist class was only partially successful in rolling back social programs and the welfare state in this earlier period. They are using the current recession/depression to complete their project of totally dismantling social democracy. They can only get away with this if the people of these targeted countries accept the lie that there is no alternative to austerity.

Greece, as well as Ireland, Portugal, Spain and many of the Eastern European countries like Latvia are suffering the same increases in poverty, growth of unemployment and inequality, and increased burdens on women that were caused by structural adjustment programs in the 1980's and 1990's. These are the same failed policies that were promoted then and are being promoted today with only slightly different labels. Let us learn from these destructive policies of the past and not allow for them to be imposed on Greece or anywhere in the present.

There are also important differences between the serious economic recession of the early 1980's and the current crisis. A major difference is the increased power of global finance which was unleashed in the earlier period and has become even more of a destructive and dominant force today. Corporate profits rose substantially from the early 1980's to 2007 but especially in the financial sector. The financial sector share of total corporate profits grew from less than 20 to 40%. Global neoliberalism is a horrible failure. It has not only failed to improve economic conditions for the majority, it has also failed on its own terms of creating an economic system that was stable with growing output and profits. The current recession/depression is vivid evidence of this failure.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NOVEMBER *WORKS IN PROGRESS*

Peter Bohmer, a faculty member in Economics and Political Economy at The Evergreen State College, originally presented this paper in Thessaloniki, Greece, September 8, 2010 at the A-Fest, Festival of the Anti-Authoritarians.

Seattle PD's Native American Advisory Council revived

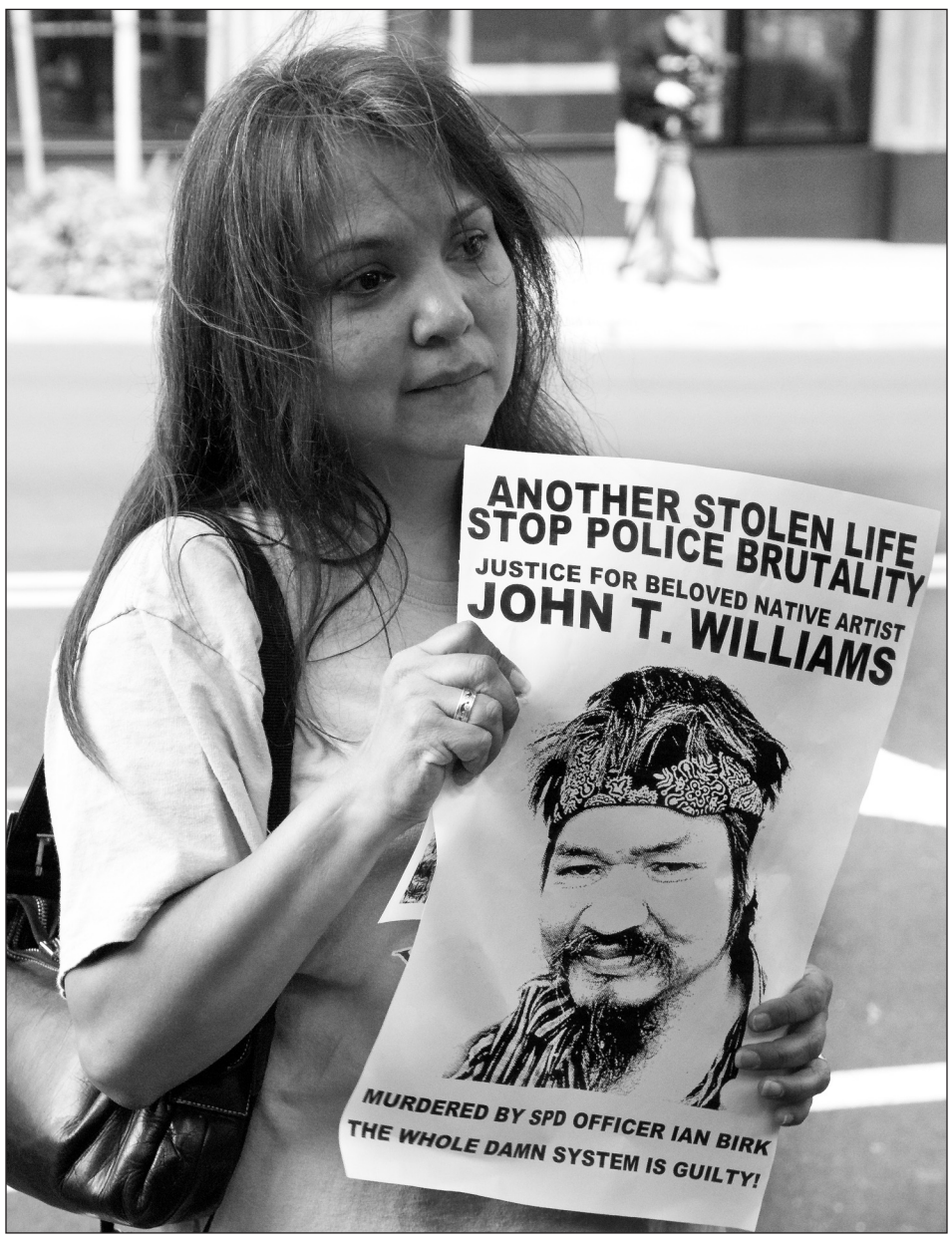
Chief of police met with native community, said shooting victim was not a suspect

by Cydney Gillis

Printed with permission from Real Change News

Seattle's new chief of police said he came with a message of peace. Three hours and one small native history lesson later, it was clear the 200 Native Americans gathered September 8 at the Daybreak Star Center found his use of the word utterly hollow in the wake of a white officer killing one of their own.

"I honestly do believe that peace should have kept the bullets in the chamber," Donald Demmert told Chief John Diaz and other officers at a community forum on the death of John T. Williams, a well-known First Nations carver shot dead August 30 in downtown Seattle.


ANOTHER STOLEN LIFE
STOP POLICE BRUTALITY
JUSTICE FOR BELOVED NATIVE ARTIST
JOHN T. WILLIAMS
MURDERED BY SPD OFFICER IAN BIRK
THE WHOLE DAMN SYSTEM IS GUILTY!

"We didn't breach the peace. It was breached for us," Loretta DeLora said. "Everybody wants peace, but to state the obvious is almost like a slap in the face because he was walking down the street with his carving instruments" – a piece of wood and a legal 3-inch pocket knife that Williams, who was deaf in one ear, apparently failed to drop on command.

"Four shots," DeLora said. "Was there any other way this could have been resolved without the use of a handgun? Could backup have been called?"

DeLora's questions were two of many that went unanswered Sept. 8. Participants said Williams' death had left them reeling in grief and unable to walk their own streets for fear of police. Until the Seattle Police Department finishes its investigation, however, Diaz said he couldn't talk about the case, but promised those who came to the forum, held by the SPD's newly revived Native American Advisory Council, that they will get answers.

One question that Diaz did answer was whether the 50-year-old Williams, who lived three blocks from where he was shot at Boren Avenue and Howell Street, was a suspect of any crime on the afternoon he was confronted by Officer Ian Birk, a 27-year-old with two years on the force.

Diaz said there were no calls regarding Williams – a major admission, says Jay Hollingsworth, a volunteer with United Indians of All Tribes and co-organizer of a march and rally planned for Williams on Thursday. "There was no incident called in that would have led police to dispatch somebody to the scene," Hollingsworth says. "That was big."

SPD will convene its Firearms Review Board to see if the shooting followed department policies and whether any changes in policy or training are needed, Diaz said. Following the police investigation, a coroner's inquest is expected to start within 90 days, he said. In that process, a six-member jury will examine the facts in the case, with jury members and attorneys for the police and the Williams family able to ask questions.

The jury could decide the shooting was justified, Diaz said, or refer the matter to the King County prosecutor for possible criminal charges against the officer – a rare occurrence, civil rights activists have pointed out. Still, "There will be a very transparent review of what happens, and you all will be able to see this," Diaz said.

Over the past year, the department has also been working to see that all officers take a daylong training course on racial profiling, said Kathryn Olson, the director of SPD's Office of Professional Accountability, a citizen complaint department. Diaz said the department is also trying to increase the number of officers who have taken 40 hours of crisis intervention training aimed at recognizing and addressing those experiencing an acute mental health issue. Of the department's 1,250 officers, about 200 have taken the training, he said.

If SPD wants good relations with the Native American community, it can start by explaining what happened to its Native American Advisory Council.

That number, says Harriet Walden of Mothers for Police Accountability, should be much higher. Walden founded the group in 1990 after officer-involved shootings of two elderly black men and says the city made crisis training mandatory for all officers after the 2000 shooting of David Walker, a mentally ill man.

The efforts satisfied few of the forum's participants, who described years of abuse at the hands of police and demanded SPD make more dramatic changes in how it regards and treats Native Americans and the homeless. Until recent years, Williams, who came from a family of carvers known for the detail of their totems and story poles, had spent most of his life on the streets.

On his trips to city parks, said Shanawa Littlebow, police officers have asked him his business many times. When he asks in return if some crime has been committed, the officers always say no. "One time on my bicycle, up in Woodland Park, they threw me down and took me into jail," he said. "There has to be change. You must sweep away the thoughts that you have when you train your police officers and bring it back to the basics. We are American citizens."

"If you want respect, you have to give respect," he said.

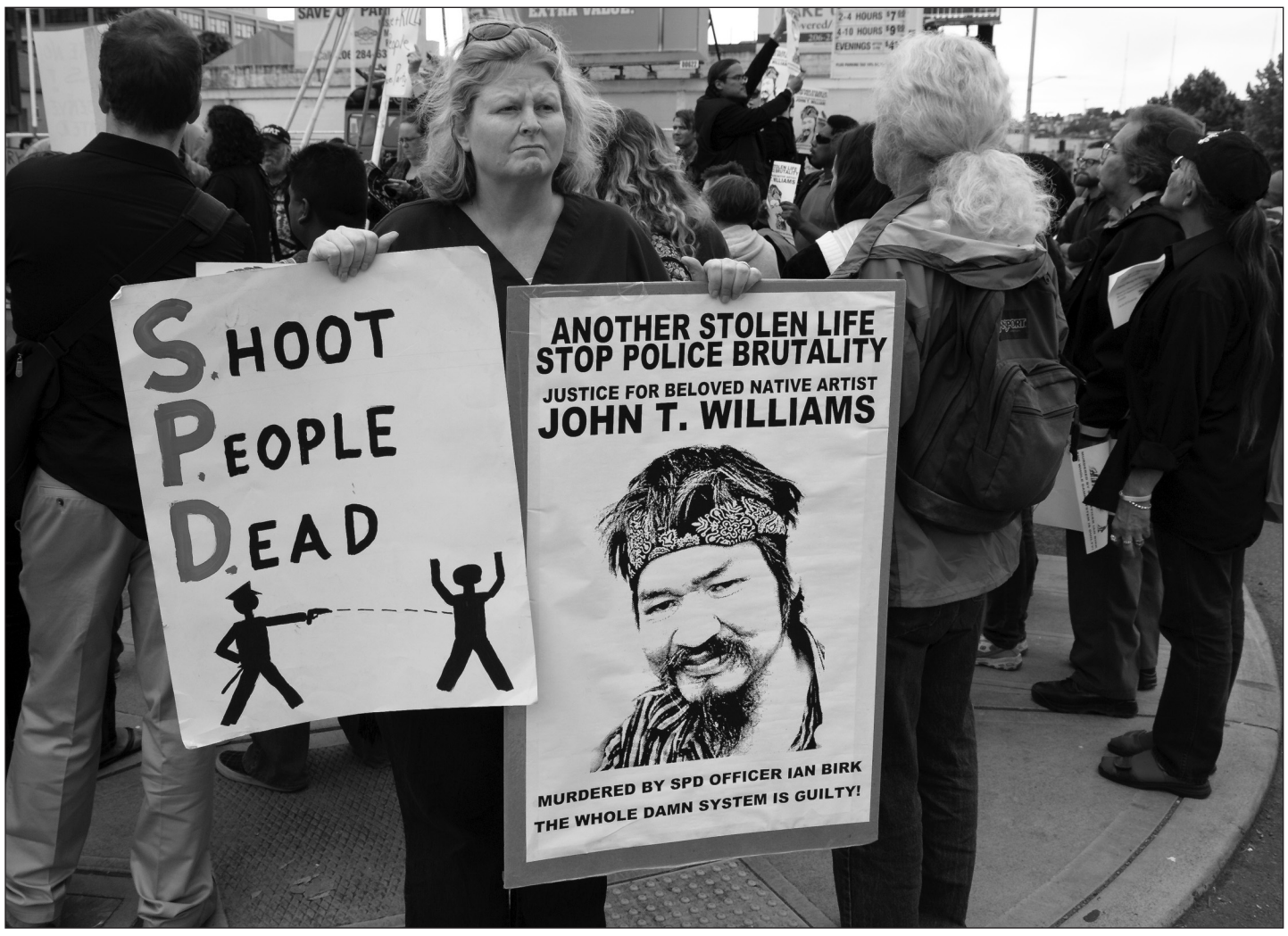
But, unlike the African-American or Asian communities, "I've had very, very little involvement, very, very little access to the Native American community," said Deputy Chief Nick Metz. "We need you to teach us. We need you to tell us and help us understand your history ... to make sure we are building a relationship with you."

If SPD wants good relations with the Native American community, says Hiram Calf Looking Sr., a member of the Washington Indian Civil Rights Commission, it can start by explaining what happened to its Native American Advisory Council. Last year, Calf Looking says, he was asked to chair the group, which was founded in 2003, but he declined after realizing the council had no native members and hadn't met in at least two years.

He says former members of the council have since told him that they stopped going to meetings because they felt the police did not respect them and it was a waste of time. In the wake of the Williams shooting, the council has a new chair – United Indians' Tina Fox – who recently told Calf Looking that he is co-chair. But, "I had not agreed to that," he says.

Not a good way to build relations, Calf Looking says. In the meantime, many at the meeting said they live in fear of the police.

"There are thugs and there are thieves and there are murderers out there, but I no longer want to go out in the street and be afraid of the police and them," Littlebow said. "There is no peace until you've made the adjustments ... to deal with people in a humane way."



It's not about the character of individual officers

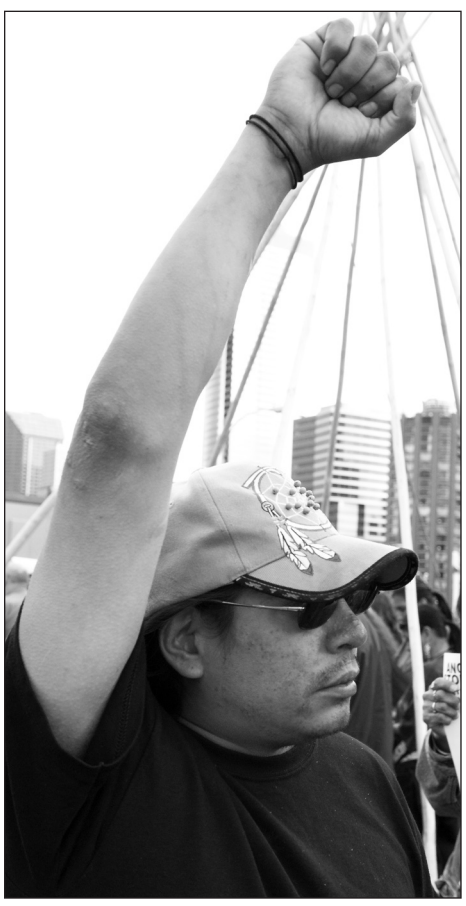
In the wake of the August 30, 2010, shooting of Native American woodcarver John T. Williams by Seattle Police officer Ian D. Birk, many are questioning whether this was the action of a rogue officer or an indication of a systemic problem. There seems to be a misconception that the behavior of law enforcement is predicated on whether they're "good" or "bad" cops. Certainly some are more prone to violence than others and many are caring, humane individuals in their personal lives. However, the more relevant concept to understand is their role as enforcers for the most powerful within our economic system.

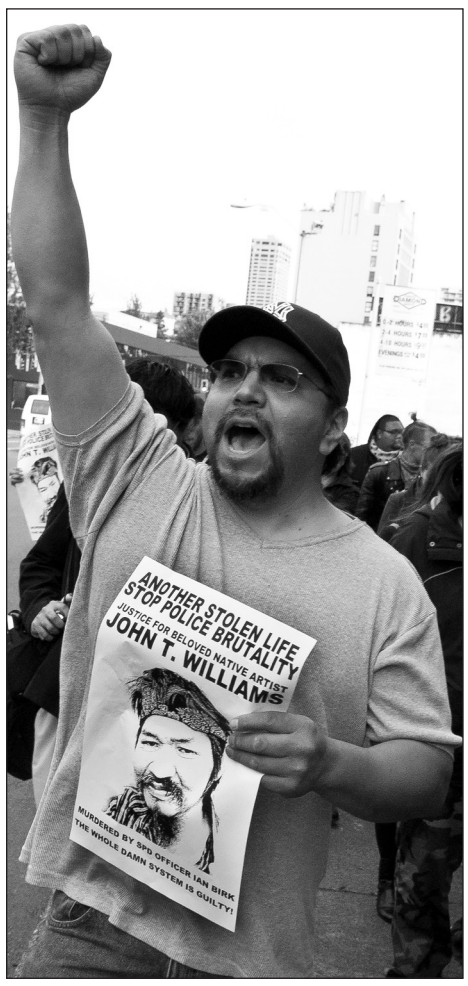
Most of us are aware that money equals power and influence with those who create laws via lobbyists, campaign contributions etc. Those wealthy enough to have a significant impact on this process share common interests such as protecting their property, insulating themselves from the masses of "have nots", and skewing punishments for breaking the law so that they affect the poor disproportionately. An example of this is the harsh penalty for auto theft (usually committed by the poor) compared to the relatively light consequences for insider trading (almost always committed by the rich and politically connected) which causes much greater harm to many more people. It's inherent in the framework of our system that their primary role of the police force is to enforce the agenda of the rich, keep the poor under control, and stifle political dissent that threatens the status quo.

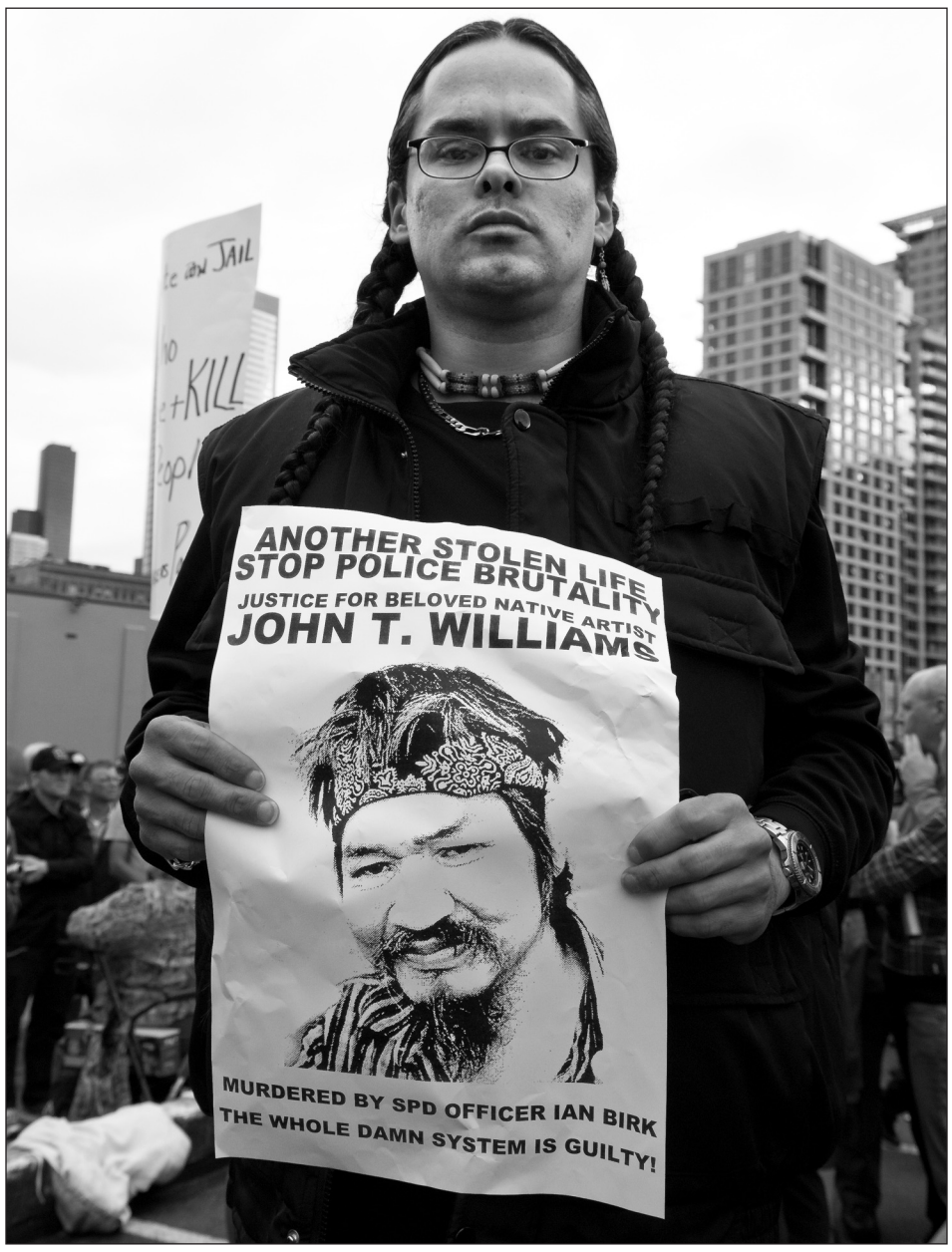
One might wonder how such a repressive force is able to operate with limited resistance and even support from many within our society. This is because their secondary role is that of protectors of the middle class. It should come as no surprise that those who live in the same neighborhoods, have kids in the same schools, and enjoy a similar standard of living as the officers in question are identified by them as part of the same socioeconomic group. These "upstanding citizens" aren't confronted with the same strong arm tactics the poor are subjected to and thus, view law enforcement more favorably.

These contrasting experiences ensure enough support from the more influential middle and upper classes to outweigh any protests raised by the poor and disenfranchised at their harsh treatment. Once these dynamics are understood, it's clear why officers of the law act the way they do – not because of personal malevolence but because it is the function of their institution.

-Kerry Finnan




ANOTHER STOLEN LIFE
STOP POLICE BRUTALITY
JUSTICE FOR BELOVED NATIVE ARTIST
JOHN T. WILLIAMS
MURDERED BY SPD OFFICER IAN BIRK
THE WHOLE DAMN SYSTEM IS GUILTY!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THE WHOLE DAMN SYSTEM IS GUILTY!

Friends, family members, artists and activists turned out on September 7th for a vigil at the spot where John T. Williams was killed on August 30th. Williams death is a great loss and his friends are grieving and demanding that the Seattle Police Department take action to stop the use of deadly force, to consider less lethal interventions.

▸ **DEAD PREZ,** continued from page 1

say that the reason why hip hop has been pretty much paralyzed and relegated to this kind of liar man's sport, *youknowi'msaying*, for lack of a better term. It's because of the competition for dollars and the economic oppression thats happening. So pretty much hip hop is like the last choice. It's like what the army, and the navy, and the air force was for us coming out of high school in the 1990s or late '80s. You know, the only choices that you got to get out of the hood is to have a wicked jump shot or go to the navy. Now you can rap. And that's why it has been pretty much destabilized as the tool and the weapon that it can be, that it could be, for our movement.

But I'd like to say, if you're ready to have workshops and hold sessions about how to make hip hop useful, we can actually make it something that can speak for our people. But I think it takes a hierarchy. I think it takes a protocol. I think it takes some real principal. Because I think the people who have to be elected to speak in here have to come from—The word has to come down from—let me call it a council, who can anoint people who are supposed to be speaking. Because right now people are speaking out of turn. You got young artists saying the most stupid stuff. I'm not saying they're stupid, but they're saying stupid things. Just imagine if there had been a council who said, "Well look, he has done the work. He knows this and he's got a rites of passage through this program. He should be able to speak." This person would then be instilled with the ability to report back crises in the community, as well as how to have a good time and have a party. He can talk about the issues that's going on with the elders, as well as how to get down on the front line and to make a molotov cocktail. This is what artists should be having to do. This is what 50 Cent should be doing. This is what Soulja Boy should be doing. But they're not anointed by this council. And I think without that process in place, hip hop won't be a resistance tool.

But I gotta say that I just left Palestine: Ramallah, the West Bank. And that's what I was doing out there with a group of artists out of New York, Chicago, and London. We were doing workshops about creating hip hop as a resistance tool. LowKey from the UK, Shadia Mansour, a Palestinian artist who lives in the UK, Marcel Cartier who lives in the Bronx, New York, and is down with a revolutionary collective there, the brothers from Chi-Rock Nation, Chicago, who are graffiti artists, doing revolutionary graffiti work, and a couple of dancers, this brother Trinidad and his brother Brandon, who are revolutionary in their art form. We all were down there doing workshops on how to make hip hop work in that kind of way in Ramallah and communicate that through Arabic in the West Bank. So I've gotta say that its very possible for this to happen that way, it just takes an organization to make it go down for you.

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WIP: Could you tell us what you learned while you were in Palestine and Egypt and also about how you see the struggle in Palestine connecting with the struggles in our communities in the United States?

M-1: Well I have been privileged enough to be in Palestine. And most recently, last month I went into the West Bank, which I was just thinking about. Altogether which is another situation than being in Gaza. I was also privileged enough, about a year before that time, to be able to go visit Gaza, through Cairo, Egypt like you said, which was a totally different experience. One, because you have to go through Egypt, and then go through the Rafah border, which was in collusion with Israel and I was able to see the Israeli politics effect on the international world, and other countries surrounding this conflict, like Jordan, and Egypt, and Lebanon, and the rest. So I was able to see it from that side, that point of view. And then going in to Gaza, which of course is a war zone and is in open combat at this time, I was able to see more of the destruction and damage of war. And then, on this trip I was able to go to Tel Aviv, Israel, so called Israel, occupied Israel, I mean occupied Palestine. Pardon me. Which has a whole 'nother spiel, because of this Zionist approach to the world, and seeing Zionism inside its inner-workings—the military state that's occupying a place that used to be called Palestine. Then I was able to go into Ramallah in the West Bank, and Nablus, and Jenin, and the rest of the places, and see the Jewish settlements that creep up and occupy more and more space every day. My reasons for being there I see as significant because I'm able to talk to the Palestinian people about real solidarity, and to show and exhibit solidarity. I think thats one of the most important words in this particular time.

We can dare people to have a new vision, one outside of the one that they had planned for us in this bourgeois kind of idea about saving America – Fuck that, we're not saving imperialism!

WIP: Solidarity?

M-1: Solidarity. Because without real solidarity, we're really not talking about principled support for one another along political lines. And that's what solidarity really is. And we have to be able to do that. We have to be able to really exhibit that and talk about that, and so that's why I was there. And I think that's what can be so helpful to this movement on this side. I think that's how it's relateable on this side. I mean we can already make the direct links to U.S. politics, European politics, and especially when billions of dollars and many Euros are being spent to keep Israel in the state that it's in. More than any other place that the U.S. helps at all, including the whole of Africa. And then you are able to see a type of warfare that's being exhibited against the people of Gaza and the West Bank. And you see the same thing happening inside the poor and oppressed communities inside the United States. So we have to talk about that. We gotta talk about the plans that they've had, the depleted uranium weapons that they are using to not only destroy the people in Palestine now, but for fifty to one hundred years they have devastated the future generations being born under chemical warfare and having to exist through all kinds of atrocities which may arise, like birth defects, or babies being born with many limbs, just the most gross things. We can see it all on the internet if we google it. But I think it's a fair warning for those of us who don't have an open eye to how ugly it really is, to be able to teach ourselves up to who the real enemy is. And that's what I think is effective for the movement on this side to be able to see what's going on in the so-called "Middle East".

Stic.man and M-1, of dead prez

WIP: Two years ago y'all performed in Denver during the Democratic National Convention at a protest organized by Recreate '68. Now that we're two years into the Obama administration, are your views the same as they were during his campaign and what are your thoughts on the Obama administration right now?

M-1: No, my views aren't the same as they were then. I've had the value of two years of more *Bush Administration*, and no, I didn't make a mistake. Even if Obama is the president, this is more of a Bush-like Administration than we had when Bush was in office. My analysis is, you know, if you take from the words of "Politrikkks," my partner [Stic.man] said, "You wanna vote, please do / cast your ballot, let your voice be heard / but then in the end, you'll see, mark my words." And we see now. And we now can mark his words that it was *politrikkks* time then, and its still *politrikkks* time when it comes to U.S. government politics as it relates to the world and us.

In Obama, I was able to detect the smell of neo-colonialism. It reeked of it before he was in the presidency. He had an apologist, pacifist—He had the worst kind of stench of Negro imperialism that I've ever seen in a human being. And then it came true. I think that's what we're able to see two years later. I was just talking to the guy who was giving me a tattoo in my chair, and he said, "Well, maybe he's done some things. Maybe what he's done is make sure that people who are getting health care, they can't be denied according to pre-existing conditions." I said that remains to be seen because his health care package is still being bantered about through this bureaucratic process that is called the U.S. government—you know, the House of Representatives, the Democrats, the Dixiecrats, and Republicans, which are the same thing. We can't declare it a victory yet. Even if that is a victory, I think at most its just reform. But I think Obama has done a huge disservice to the people who he lied to in order to get into office, including the Black and Brown people around the issues of immigration and the rest. There's been a general ignorance of police terror and police brutality, that has run wild and is running rampant throughout our communities still. I just don't see things getting any better. As a matter of fact, scientifically, as a scientific socialist, I see this as the last stage of imperialism. And, you know, *watch out for what's next*.

"Let it be known: if you need us, call on us. We work for the people. And the streets is our office."

WIP: As you mentioned, a lot of people, especially in Black and brown communities, put hope into the Obama campaign. For many of them, especially young people, it was the first time they were inspired to get involved with politics. Does the fact that young people got mobilized politically represent an opportunity that can be grasped onto by Leftists and revolutionaries?

M-1: It depends on how ready our movement is. We have to be in a strong enough standpoint to be able to take advantage of the activism, the spirit of activism, that has been awakened in some people. So if we can take advantage of that spirit of activism, then we can talk about what to do now that those people have been bamboozled. Now that the Black communities, who once had Obama's vote, now want to know what it can do. Or the white people who were bamboozled by Obama, and gave him so much great access to social networking platforms, and a kind of revolutionary standpoint of how to engage the public, which he didn't have before this new energy was pumped to his campaign by people who actually believed in the kind of change that was he was lying about. I think those people are still here. Now if we let that energy go aside, then of course we won't be able to use that any time soon, you know what I mean, we won't be able to use that. But if we jump on it in the moment, and we take advantage of this opportunity as we have it, we could steer that spirit of activism into a new direction. We can dare people to have a new vision, one outside of the one that they had planned for us in this bourgeois kind of idea about saving America—Fuck that, we're not saving imperialism! Let's not save imperialism. Let's not save capitalism. How about that? What about a new idea? What about come up with a new system, a vision for the future that works for the future for everybody and not just the very few at the top. In the movement, we have to be able to put out these ideas quickly, and define it before we lose that momentum. And that's the phase that we're in now. I think more and more people are becoming disgruntled and coming out with it. The Black community is now speaking out about how Obama definitely ain't representing us. There use to be a time when that wasn't cool. There use to be a time when we use to be called "haters" because we use to talk about Obama. But now everywhere I go, there's a whole bunch of people who now realize that Obama is not gonna rescue the mainstay, the main problems that we have in our communities. And so here we are, faced with a whole bunch of fall outs from people who want to do good but now who don't have a place to do good at. So it's on us. It's on us to get organized, get into formation, provide correct political education, real political education, and go forward. And let's holler at the people.

WIP: Thank you for your time to an-

▸ **CONTINUED,** on next page

WIP History

Every month, *WIP* reprints a relevant article from its 20 year history, or a new article on a historical topic. This month, we're honoring the 10th anniversary of the dramatic occupation of the Democratic Campaign Headquarters in Olympia, in support of the U'Wa of Colombia.

Thurston County Democratic Campaign Headquarters:
Occupation in support of U'Wa

by "an anonymous Oly activist ('cause now it's illegal to protest)"

October 2000

On Tuesday Sept. 19th, protesters in Olympia, WA occupied local Democratic Campaign Headquarters to protest the Colombian Military's planned removal of 5,000 people who make up the U'Wa tribe. The protest began in a downtown park where State Troopers soon declared the protest illegal because organizers never asked for permission to protest.

Protesters began marching in the streets as the Olympia police scrambled to redirect traffic. Around 200 protesters headed down Capitol Way, and made a right on 4th Ave. (Olympia's main street), when two people dropped a banner from the railroad stop lights in front of the Democratic campaign headquarters. The banner made Al Gore's connection to Occidental Petroleum, and Occidental's connection to U'Wa land explicitly clear, while hundreds of flyers were passed out to onlookers and passing cars.

Protesters piled in the headquarters and made it their home. Sidewalk chalk art and writing began to appear on the bare cement floor. Protesters entertained themselves with political theater and a reading of Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax*. Protesters brought in food and mattresses for overnight sleeping. Some people removed candidate yard signs from the walls and transformed them into various signs in support of the U'Wa. Many of those signs were displayed in the front windows and on the street outside.

Police and local campaign officials were dumb struck by the situation, hoping protesters would soon leave. They planned to hold an Election Primary party that evening—not a protest! Campaign officials paced about the office nervously, while they held off the police from forcefully removing protesters. Campaign officials did not want the negative publicity or the U'Wa's story from being told on the nightly news.

Organizers on cell phones alerted the media of the situation in Olympia and news vans were on their way. Others tried to phone Al Gore to make a statement on the subject. A representative of the Gore campaign denied Al Gore's ownership of Occidental stock, citing Al Gore's mother's ownership of Occidental stock as a mistake on the protesters behalf. Protesters contend that Al Gore's tax records prove otherwise, mentioning that the stock in question was given to him by Al Gore Sr. who served on the Occidental Petroleum board of directors.

Meanwhile, protesters discussed among themselves (with police observation) what their plan would be. Through hours of discussion, protesters agreed that they could not agree on what to do when the police would try to remove them. It was resolved that everyone would do what they felt comfortable doing. Three protesters opted to lock their necks together with U-shaped bike locks while eight others practiced interlocking arms and legs.

Protesters brought in food and mattresses for overnight sleeping. Some people removed candidate yard signs from the walls and transformed them into various signs in support of the U'Wa.

It was announced that the Primary election Party was canceled by this time, and that soon the Democrats would call in the police. Within a half hour, a number of police descended on the headquarters, ordering everyone out or they would be subject to arrest. Most protesters left slowly, while those who chose to stayed.

The police attack

Police quickly locked the doors and began to make arrests. Police promptly arrested eight or nine people and led them out the backdoor, onto a city bus. Police then covered the Democrats' windows with butcher paper to block media cameras from viewing the arrest of the three remaining protesters locked together. This police tactic outraged the protesters gathered outside. Following screams from inside, protesters outside began to pound on the covered glass windows. Police reacted by pushing protesters to create a buffer zone between them and the building. Little skirmishes faded quickly as the police positioned themselves, but tensions between police and protesters did not.

Many protesters feared the immediate threat of the police applying more physical force on protesters inside the building and out. After a series of screams from the protesters inside, those on the outside moved around the corner waiting to see the three locked protesters come out the back door. Protesters were pushed back by police as the backdoor opened. Other police officers rushed to make a semicircle around the door and the parked city bus. Protesters blockaded the bus by sitting in its path. Three officers then suddenly pounced on a man on a bicycle and wrestled him to the ground. He screamed madly, with his chin bloody against the concrete, as the three officers put cuffs on him. Police then dragged the locked protesters onto the sidewalk leaving one without blood circulation in her legs and arm.

Some protesters became angry with what they were witnessing and began to shout at the police officers. Police then rushed the crowd, swinging their batons indiscriminately. In this chaotic moment, Police suddenly formed a line crossing the street and then dispersed a minute later, leaving the three locked protesters on the sidewalk. People spontaneously ran to aid the protesters still locked together who luckily escaped serious injury. Others planned a march to city hall where the weekly City Council meeting was in session.

At City Hall

When reaching city hall, approximately twenty protesters were greeted by a line of police blocking their entry into the meeting. Police officers and the city attorney justified their actions on the preemptive assumption that protesters would disrupt the meeting. Protesters informed the authorities that they were violating the first Amendment of the Washington State and U.S. constitutions by prohibiting the rights of citizens and the press to attend the public city council meeting. After numerous minutes idly waiting, the city attorney stepped aside to allow protesters to pass.

When inside, protester's testimonies ranged from police misconduct and accountability to the plight of the U'Wa. City council members promised to "look into" the issues protesters brought to their attention before moving onto other business.

The Aftermath

Protesters intend to continue tarnishing Al Gore's presidential campaign if he does not take a stand on the many issues the U'Wa situation encompasses. Cutting to the core of Gore's environmental "standing up to big oil" rhetoric, protests in support of the U'Wa, and their commitment to the earth's preservation, will not go away.

Two more protesters were identified by police surveillance and arrested the next day. Olympia police demanded that the local college release student pictures and information for further identification. The college refused, but police promise to be back with court subpoenas to make more arrests.

Background to U'Wa

Around 5,000 inhabitant of the U'Wa tribe live in the cloud forests of northern Colombia. Currently, they are peacefully resisting Occidental Petroleum's drilling on lands U'Wa legally own through treaty rights. Over 3,000 U'Wa are willing to commit mass suicide, by collectively jumping off a cliff, rather than have their traditional ways of life and environment destroyed before their eyes. This threat should not be taken lightly due to the historical precedents of many U'Wa plunging to their death to avoid slavery at the hands of the early conquistadors.

The Colombian Military, in charge of removing U'Wa from their land, has stepped up intimidation tactics. According to a Rainforest Action Network spokesperson in contact with theU'Wa, the Colombian military has fired shots randomly from helicopters above the forest.

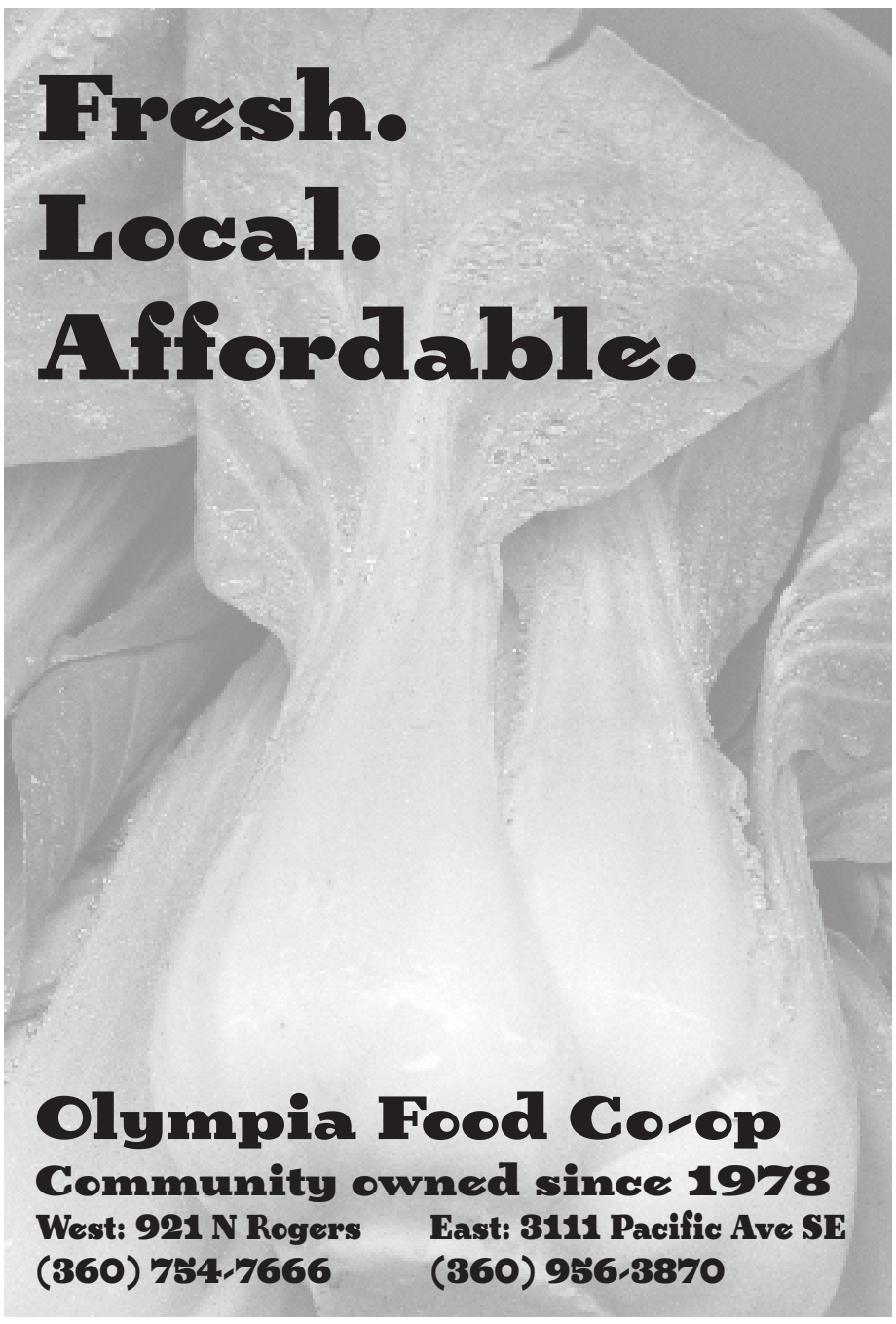
The U'Wa continue to nonviolently resist their worsening situation.

The Colombian Military will soon go forward with plans to forcefully remove the U'Wa, unless…

swer all these questions. Do you have any final comments? Maybe any thoughts about what it feels like to be back in Olympia after all of the controversy last time the two of you were here?

M-1: Well, in my final words, I'd like to say, you know, "Burn, Olympia, Burn." Long live the people's movement. Long live the resistance, the revolutionaries. I hope Olympia, Seattle, Tacoma, becomes a scorching pad, sorry, the scorched earth for would-be revolutionaries, and free thinkers, and revolutionary-minded people. I hope this can become a home, a bastion, it has become, I see it living that way. And, even though dead prez was able to see a fire ignite, dead prez did not ignite the fire. The fire was here long before we were here. And I'd like to see it continue. I consider this one of our revolutionary homes. I consider this, politically, one of the safe havens that we have in America. And so I'd like to see all of that continue and thank everybody who is out there putting in real work and knowing that we know you're there and we're behind you a hundred percent. And that's what it is.

If I can do some selfless shout outs, I'd like to say shout out to my partner Stic.Man as we work on this brand new album called *Information Age*, and in more albums that come from dead prez. I hope we're able to do the work that I think is necessary. So let it be known: if you need us, call on us. We work for the people. And the streets is our office.



▸ **PALESTINIANS,** continued from page 7

and party politics. This is no different than the South African anti-Apartheid resistance.

Considering the circumstances, the BNC has significant representation. Regardless, it does not dictate to BDS campaigns around the world. However, Marco finds fault in this as well. In yet another contradiction, Marco faults the BNC for not being *representative* enough and conversely faults the BNC for not being *authoritative* enough by "offer[ing] no wider principles for boycotting Israel." Meanwhile, Marco offers his own opinion without explaining what qualifies him to be more representative of Palestinians or authoritative than the BNC.

Marco's boycott proposal would be more symbolic than what is already in place.

Marco provides no alternative measure to gauge the needs of Palestinians. Beyond quoting the BNC, he does not cite any other Palestinians in his article. The closest he comes is quoting Hussein Ibish American Task Force on Palestine, whose stance on BDS Marco "totally agree[s] with." However, neither Marco nor Ibish are Palestinian, and Ibish is more often ridiculed than respected among Palestinians.

Not really a myth but not really an argument: The B in Boycott is capitalized and it has a birthday

In another sign of desperation, Marco combs through the BNC website and finds an instance of the letter "B" capitalized in "Boycott." This, according to Marco, signals that the tactic of boycott has been "elevate[d] to the status of an ideology." Never mind that "boycott" is not capitalized elsewhere. Never mind that this particular web page is reproduced on other websites with the "b" in lowercase. Never mind that Susan Trinin also capitalized "Boycott" in her anti-boycott article in WIP.

Marco is also shocked to discover three news articles about the fifth anniversary of the BDS call on the BNC website, with a call for a "BDS Day of Action" on the anniversary. He compares this to "celebrat[ing] the anniversary of 'Banner Drop Day' where people got together and muse[] about the importance that banner drops." This is ridiculous and makes me wonder if Marco even read what he wrote. There is a huge difference between an imaginary "Banner Drop Day" and a "DAY OF ACTION."

If Marco had read the articles he cited, he would know that the point was not to have a BDS birthday cake and reflect on BDS good times. The point, as the title suggested, was to have a "Day of ACTION," and to coordinate it worldwide on a single DAY. Making this coincide with the 2005 BDS call helped to highlight the original call and the need to keep BDS efforts alive. Surely Marco is aware of the strategic importance to keep a campaign energized and growing.

Yet to Marco, this means that "the cause of Palestinian liberation is sometimes taking a back seat to a specific tactic." That is, Palestinians are so consumed by boycott mania that they have forgotten that they are oppressed. Fortunately, Marco is here to remind them.

Myth: BDS does not adhere to international law

On one point, Marco gives the BNC credit: "One thing that I strongly agree with the Palestinian BDS National Committee is that the purpose of any BDS campaign should be to get Israel to follow international laws." Yet elsewhere in his article, Marco complains that the BNC gives "the impression that they will support any BDS campaign against anything from Israel regardless of how distant or near it is from the occupation or violations of international law." Well, which is it?

A simple Google search on the BNC website reveals 376 pages that reference the phrase "international law." In fact, if Marco reads the original 2005 BDS call, he will notice that the full title of the document is, "Palestinian Civil Society Calls for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel ***until it complies with international law*** and Universal Principles of Human Rights" (my emphasis).

Moreover the 2005 BDS call prefaces its three conditions by stating that the conditions are based on "the precepts of international law." In fact, international law is so essential to the BDS campaign that the 2005 BDS call was deliberately issued on July 9, 2005, to coincide with the one-year anniversary of the World Court's ruling on Israel's West Bank Wall.

As I stated in the Aug. 2010 *WIP*, the Co-op's boycott document references the 2005 BDS call, and its conditions are explicitly stated as being based on 2005 BDS call. Thus the conditions demanded by the Co-op's boycott are already referenced *within the context of international law.*

Thus it is strange that Marco consumes so many column inches promoting international law as if he is the first to discover it.

The "Constructive Alternative"

Finally, after spending three-fourths of the article criticizing BDS for contradictory, disconnected, and trivial reasons, Marco provides his "constructive alternative." It turns out that his "constructive alternative" is not very different from what is in place. He supports a boycott, but on his own "superior" terms. He wants the boycott to target businesses that directly profit from the occupation, is located in settlements, or actively discriminates against non-Jews. Even with international law as a guide, Marco does not explain how the Co-op can possibly determine which Israeli businesses would not fall under these conditions. It would face the same conundrum that the Italian supermarket chains Nordiconad and COOP faced when they decided to boycott Israeli settlement goods: Israel purposely avoids distinguishing between settlement goods and goods from Israel proper.

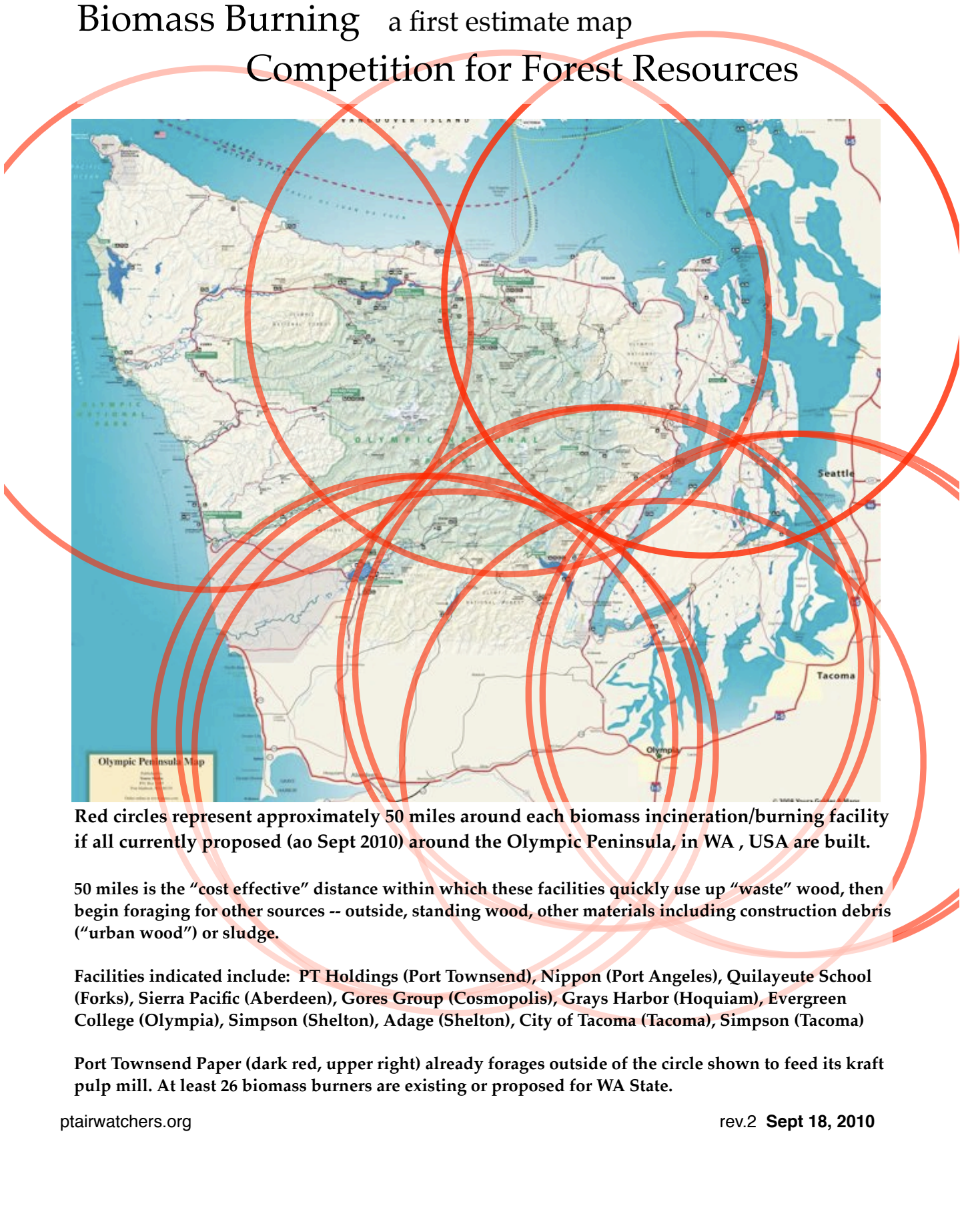
Israel's process of expulsion is the same whether it is targeted against the Bedouins in the Negev or the Palestinians in the West Bank. The culprit is not individual Israeli companies that directly profit from such practice. These companies do not dictate the settlement policies or promote the idea that Arabs are a "demographic threat" to Israel. The culprit is the system maintained by the Israeli government and accepted and benefited by the Jewish Israeli status quo.

The way to target the system is to disrupt regular economic exchange.

Israeli activist Ofer Neiman explains in greater detail: "The settlers (including those living in East Jerusalem) make up only 7% of Israel's citizens. Most of the settlements are small communities, and many of their inhabitants make their living either through work in Israel (west of the Green Line) or as state employees in their communities. Therefore, a selective boycott against settlement products will not affect all these settlers. Moreover, Israel can relocate factories currently operating in the West Bank to nearby industrial zones [exploiting Palestinian labor] inside the Green Line borders.

"In a 2009 *Ha'aretz* article, Journalist Aluf Benn wrote: 'Only one thing does bother the Israelis, according to the polls: fear of a diplomatic embargo and an international boycott.' It seems that the average Israelis who are concerned about an international boycott are fearful of the broader BDS measures more than they are fearful of selective measures, which may have no impact on their pockets or on their sense of normalization with the outside world."

Thus, Marco's boycott proposal would be more symbolic than what is already in place. Moreover, this type of narrowly selective boycott is more principled than tactical. Because it purports to distinguish between "specific evils and the Israeli population as a whole," it is more "feel good" than "do good." All the flaws that Marco imagines in the global BDS movement are realized in his own "constructive alternative."



Red circles represent approximately 50 miles around each biomass incineration/burning facility if all currently proposed (ao Sept 2010) around the Olympic Peninsula, in WA , USA are built.

50 miles is the "cost effective" distance within which these facilities quickly use up "waste" wood, then begin foraging for other sources -- outside, standing wood, other materials including construction debris ("urban wood") or sludge.

Facilities indicated include: PT Holdings (Port Townsend), Nippon (Port Angeles), Quilayeute School (Forks), Sierra Pacific (Aberdeen), Gores Group (Cosmopolis), Grays Harbor (Hoquiam), Evergreen College (Olympia), Simpson (Shelton), Adage (Shelton), City of Tacoma (Tacoma), Simpson (Tacoma)

Port Townsend Paper (dark red, upper right) already forages outside of the circle shown to feed its kraft pulp mill. At least 26 biomass burners are existing or proposed for WA State.

ptairwatchers.org rev.2 **Sept 18, 2010**

Corporate Personhood

Disturbing the peace

by Aleta DeBee and Dave Zink

Why is it that even though Americans are sick and tired of war, and know it's a horrendous waste of life and money, we still can't make headway towards enduring peace?

Because some powerful corporations rely on war for power and profit, and are using "corporate personhood" to control our government.

Since the Second World War, American GIs have slogged through a series of wars, justified by dubious reasons now known to be falsehoods. The staged Gulf of Tonkin incident got us into Vietnam. Bogus "weapons of mass destruction" got us into Iraq. U.S. taxpayers are being conned into financing one expensive and wasteful conflict after another, from Angola to Grenada to Nicaragua to Afghanistan. Many of these were expensive, proxy conflicts that many Americans never even knew our government was involved in.

These "behind the scenes" involvements often backfire. U.S. taxpayers financed the arming and training of the Mujahadin to overthrow the socialist government of Afghanistan. They morphed into the Taliban and repaid the favor with the 9-11 attacks on New York City and Washington D.C. We have financed, often unknowingly, a long, sad string of expensive and wasteful conflicts for agendas that do not really concern the average citizen. In spending these billions of dollars, we are creating enemies of America. Respect for the USA has fallen, and our flag has become a hated symbol by many around the world.

It has, however, been very lucrative for the military-industrial corporations, that often work through think tank and policy institute "front" organizations with nice-sounding names like:

• **The Committee on the Present Danger.** Established in 1950 to lobby for U.S. rearmament. Revived in 1976, and again in 2004 by former CIA Director R. James Woolsey, the American Enterprise Institute, the Heritage Foundation, the Boeing Company, and others to fight a "War on Terror" by military methods instead of coordinated international police action. It supports aggressive U.S. policy against Iran.

• **Center for Security Policy.** Pushed for a missile "defense" program worth half a trillion dollars in contracts.

• **Project for a New American Century.** Advocates increasing military spending for our security and prosperity. Succeeded in its push for unilateral military aggression in the Middle East.

• **The National Endowment for Democracy.** Funded by our tax dollars via the U.S. Congress, the NED often does exactly the opposite of what its name implies. It finances, trains and equips organizations with strong ties to the military and that promote investing rights for US companies. Regularly interferes in the political affairs of other countries.

Corporations are not just the tail wagging the dog anymore. Through the subterfuge of an array of "Astroturf" groups they are now masquerading as the dog itself. Astroturf groups are phony grassroots organizations funded by big corporations and quasi-libertarian think tanks including the Cato Institute and the Competitive Enterprise Institute, who seek to remove all limits on corporate behavior. They attempt to sway public policy through activities like sending letters to newspapers, lobbying elected officials, and buying media ads. "Astroturf" front groups have appealing names, like the Center for Consumer Freedom, Americans for Technology Leadership, the Save Our Species Alliance, Citizens for Sensible Control of Acid Rain, the Coalition for Health Insurance Choices, Americans for Clean Air, Healthy Forests Alliance, Working Families for Wal-Mart, National Wetlands Coalition, Friends Against Counterproductive Taxation, The Clean and Safe Energy Coalition, Consumers Organized for Reliable Electricity, and dozens of others.

- Adapted from an article in the Huffington Post

What went wrong? How did the corporations get so wealthy and powerful?

In the 1880s, while citizens were trying to bring corporate robber barons under control, the corporations were busy working at cross purposes. They convinced the Supreme Court to grant corporations rights as "persons" under the constitution.

Corporate money drives the process, but it's corporate "personhood" that enables it to subvert our republic.

Legal "personhood" gives corporations the right to spend practically unlimited money to lobby the government. They use this to amplify their voices far beyond what most real people can afford. Through doors lubricated with political donations and well-connected lobbyists (often former legislators), corporations persuade holders of public office that what is good for Big Business is good for America, and push through whatever legislation they think might be in their interest.

By moving operations offshore, many corporations have become "trans-national" and dodge paying their fair share of taxes, while getting millions through various corporate welfare schemes. This shifts more and more of the tax burden onto the backs of working-class America, even as jobs are disappearing overseas.

Under the Constitution of the United States, "We the People" rule. With legal "personhood," corporations are legally part of "we the people." Personhood, combined with the massive financial power of corporations has enabled them to gain de-facto control over our government. They use it to amass even more wealth and power and to intimidate those who defy their agendas.

Because war is so profitable for many corporations, in war time the entire economy "rises." It's especially profitable for weapons makers and other elements of the military-industrial complex. These companies use their influence to keep taxpayers spending an ever-increasing part of our country's wealth on armaments, military contractors, and overpriced equipment (remember $600 screwdrivers?) in a series of perpetual and endless wars. This has damaged our economy, burdened government with crippling debt, and caused chronic under-funding of schools, housing, health care, roads, bridges, and other real needs.

Did you know that our country's number one industrial export is weapons? What do you predict would be the foreign policy of a nation having weapons as its major export product? Perpetual war, perhaps?

Corporations profit, politicians win, the rest of us lose.

It takes a lot of cash to run an effective political campaign. Most holders of public office are beholden to corporate donations, and face a daily gauntlet of lobbyists. Lawmakers, with the help of the dominant media, spin decisions to go to war as being in the interest of the country and its citizens. Then the citizens pay for the war, often with their lives, while the corporations reap the profits.

Targeted nations are out of luck. Corporations divvy up the spoils: oil fields, mining rights, banking franchises, and whatever else they can grab—anything of value is privatized and taken over by "free market" corporate owners. All in the name of spreading "democracy."

Corporate money drives the process, but it's corporate "personhood" that enables it to subvert our republic. This is the connection between corporate "constitutional" rights and war. If corporations were not legally defined as "persons," we the people could forbid them from interfering in political activity.

Corporate rule is not the only reason for wars. But it is the principle reason behind many wars. They say that our troops are fighting for freedom and democracy. But, in reality, they are fighting for oil and other resources. Look closely. Follow the money, and you'll often see corporate interests profiting by deceiving the public and cynically exploiting our patriotism.

How can we fix this problem and build an effective peace movement?

Next time the saber rattlers and the corporate mass media call for war, how can we do more than just react? If we're serious about stopping wars of aggression for profit, we need to strip corporations of their unjustified classification as "persons" with civil rights. If we are to dismantle corporations' power to govern, and end their ability to funnel our country's resources into war and empire, we must deal with this basic constitutional issue.

The peace movement needs to go to the root of the problem. Instead of saying "No More War," the signs should read "No more Corporate Rule!" or "Stop Corporate Personhood!" or "Corporations Cause War." We need to strip corporations of their ability to turn what is supposed to be our government into our greatest obstacle!

We will never be able to stop unjust wars until we deal with the pivotal issue of corporate personhood. This is crucial. Peace groups across this country should make this the first goal.

Then, peace will truly have a chance. People around the world are praying that we succeed.

"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes."

- President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Farewell Address to the Nation, 17 January 1961

For more information:

Addicted to War, a book by Joel Andreas http://www.addictedtowar.com/book.html

Why We Fight, a video http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Why_We_Fight_(2005_film)

Unequal Protection: The Rise of Corporate Dominance and the Theft of Human Rights, a book by Thom Hartmann http://www.thomhartmann.com/unequalprotection/

The Alliance for Democracy, South Puget Sound Chapter http://www.Sound-Democracy.org

Democracy Now **with Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzales** http://www.democracynow.org/

AM 1090, KPTK radio, Seattle http://www.am1090seattle.com/

Veterans for Peace www.veteransforpeace.org/ A non-profit educational and humanitarian organization of vets dedicated to increasing public awareness of the costs of war, and working to end the arms race.

acupuncture is pretty cool.

http://2kensmith.blogspot.com/
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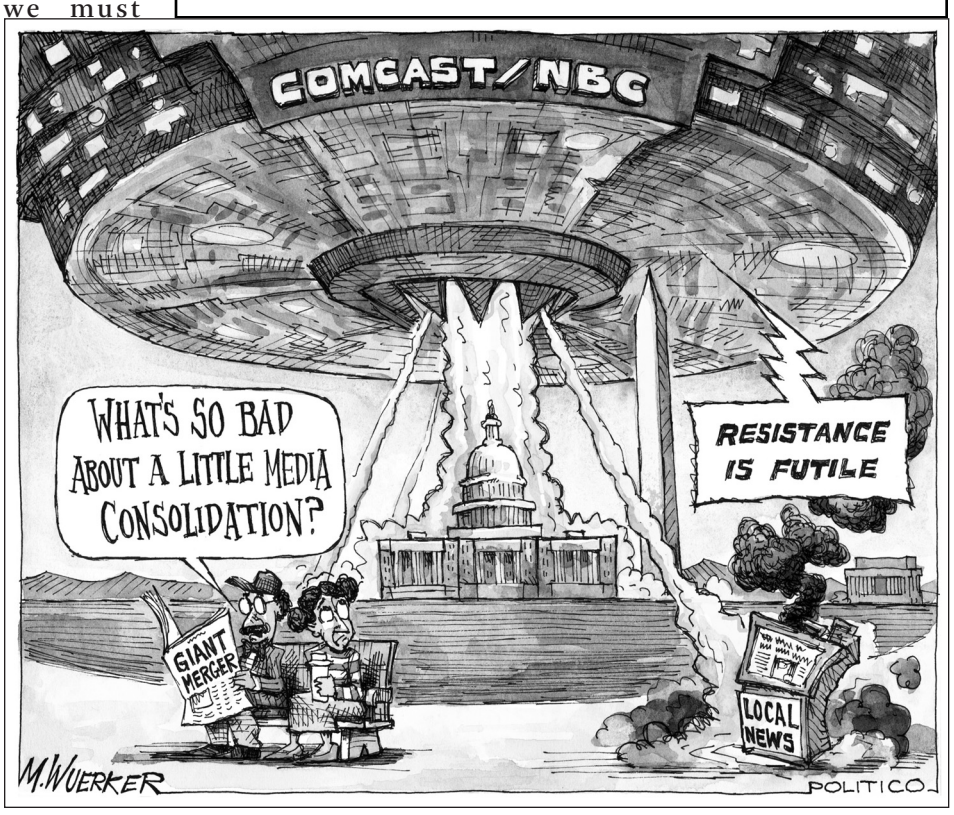
ken smith, l.ac.



Managing activism

PR Advice for "Neutralizing" Democracy

Book review by Jon Stauber

Reprinted from PR Watch Org
www.prwatch.org

When I first picked up Denise Deegan's book, Managing Activism: A Guide to Dealing with Activists and Pressure Groups, I imagined a roomful of uniformed pest applicators at the Orkin company, sitting on benches like military aviators before a bombing mission, being briefed on the best tools available for eradicating cockroaches. I was a spy for the roaches--the pesty "activists" that Deegan works to "manage." Roaches don't generally read the "how to" manuals written by their would-be exterminators, but activists certainly should.

As someone who has spent the last decade investigating the seamy side of the "perceptions management" industry, I wish I could tell you that this book is a gold mine of revelation, but for me it is not. Still, I recommend that my fellow citizens read this book. It is written in classroom text-like fashion, and the author is careful to put the best face on her profession and not include advice that might offend the atypical reader. Nevertheless, it can help people working for democratic social change to understand the often successful ways in which we are targeted for defeat, especially the "good cop/bad cop" tactic for dividing and conquering activists through "partnering" and co-optation by industry. For activists, Deegan's book provides a primer on how to recognize these traps and hopefully avoid them.

Managing Activism is written for PR practitioners whose clients engage in risky businesses (fossil fuels, pesticides, genetically engineered foods, nuclear waste, toxic dumps, animal testing) and who therefore become the targets of "activist groups" including "environmentalists, workers' rights activists, animal rights groups and human rights campaigners." Don't expect much sympathy for the activists. Deegan is a battle-hardened PR veteran and a committed soldier in the war against activists who "in an increasingly pluralistic society" present what she calls "a growing threat to organizations of all shapes and sizes. And because activists employ a wide range of aggressive tactics such as generating bad publicity, seeking government and legislative intervention, encouraging boycotts, etc., they can cause severe disruption, including damage to reputation, sales, profitability, employee satisfaction and, of course, share price."

The picture that Deegan paints is undoubtedly a chilling scenario if you are an executive or major share holder in companies like Monsanto or DuPont that have long histories of worldwide trade in everything from nuclear weapon components to pesticides and genetically modified crops. What's a besieged CEO to do?

"Fortunately, if dealt with in the right manner, activists have been shown to change their approach from aggressively confrontational to cooperative," Deegan promises. "Learning to manage activists involves learning about activists. Who are they? What do they want? What will they do to achieve their objectives? And most importantly, what is the best way to deal with them?"

Deegan's recommendations are similar to the advice which comes from Peter Sandman, E. Bruce Harrison, James Lukaszewski, Paul Gilding and other "crisis management" experts whom Sheldon Rampton and I cover in our work for *PR Watch*. Unfortunately, this entire area of PR--how to defeat activism--is insufficiently scrutinized by the citizens who need most to be aware of it, the activists themselves. Until we "cockroaches" understand the strategies of the "exterminators," the PR roach hotels built by corporate crisis management practitioners will continue to entrap movements for democracy, ecological sustainability, fair trade, human rights, social justice, and all those other extreme threats to the corporate bottom-line. Social activists like to believe that we are too committed to our causes, too worldly and aware to be sweet-talked into unwitting submission by sitting down and partnering with the enemy. As Deegan reiterates, however, industry continues to regard this sort of "dialogue" as its most effective method for managing activists.

Deegan's book tries to put the best face on the practice of "managing activism," which may explain why she avoids mentioning the Washington-based PR firm of Mongoven, Biscoe and Duchin (MBD), one of the worldwide leaders in this particular PR subspecialty. As we have documented previously, MBD grew out of the successful effort by one of its founders, Jack Mongoven, to defeat the large religious-lead boycott campaign aimed at the Nestlé corporation for its deadly promotion of infant formula in the third world. In activist lore this boycott is touted as a major victory, but in the corporate world it is understood that industry really won the day by pulling the rug out from the campaign. By making selective concessions to the activists, Nestlé succeeded in negotiating an end to the boycott. Later, activists were dismayed to discover that its infant formula marketing practices are continuing with only token changes. Third world children continue to die, but today their plight receives little attention, and activists have found that a boycott, once terminated, is not easily turned back on.

By making selective concessions to the activists, Nestlé succeeded in negotiating an end to the boycott. Later, activists were dismayed to discover that its infant formula marketing practices are continuing with only token changes.

MBD is a sort of spy operation. Its dozens of employees relentlessly compile dossiers on activists of all sizes and shapes the world over, advising industry how to defeat them. Their favorite method is a "divide and conquer" strategy heavily dependent on co-optation: First identify the "radicals" who are unwilling to compromise and who are demanding fundamental changes to redress the problem at hand. Then, identify the "realists"--typically, organizations with significant budgets and staffs working in the same relative area of public concern as the radicals. Then, approach these realists, often through a friendly third party, start a dialogue and eventually cut a deal, a "win win" solution that marginalizes and excludes the radicals and their demands. Next, go with the realists to the "idealists" who have learned about the problem through the work of the radicals. Convince the idealists that a "win-win" solution endorsed by the realists is best for the community as a whole. Once this has been accomplished, the "radicals" can be shut out as extremists, the PR fix is in, and the deal can be touted in the media to make the corporation and its "moderate" nonprofit partners look heroic for solving the problem. Result: industry may have to make some small or temporary concessions, but the fundamental concerns raised by the "radicals" are swept aside.

This, in a nutshell, is the strategy that Deegan recommends in what she calls "one of the first books to offer a 'how to ...' format to help people cope with the threat of activism." I especially recommend her chapters on "relationship building, negotiation and conflict resolution" and "media relations." Reading these chapters should help drive home the realization that activist efforts are being deliberately targeted for defeat by corporate funding, partnership and co-optation. These may seem like unusual weapons, but PR crisis managers have taken to heart the advice of military strategist Carl Von Clausewitz: "We see then that there are many ways to one's object in War; that the complete subjugation of the enemy is not essential in every case."

Activist readers should remember that Deegan's book only offers part of the story, the sanitized version. It does not go into all the real-world ways in which nasty, smear attacks against activists are waged and funded by the same corporations and industries offering the outstretched hand of partnership. For the "rest of the story," also read *Secrets and Lies: The Anatomy of an Anti-Environmental PR Campaign*, by Nicky Hager and Bob Burton. *Secrets and Lies* is included in Deegan's "recommended reading" list. Based on a mother lode of leaked documents, its revelations of anti-environmental dirty tricks in New Zealand proved so shocking to citizens there that its publication contributed to the political downfall of the head of state.

Published in PR Watch, Second Quarter 2002, Volume 9, No. 2

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Photos from Olympia International Peace Day celebration

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Don't take it from our hides

Social Security targeted to balance the budget

by Will Parry and Thalia Syracopoulos

Many of us, young and old, have been alarmed by the damage inflicted on our individual and national well-being by the floundering economy and the ongoing Gulf oil spill. Meanwhile, another insidious threat to all of us who live and work in this country has been largely ignored.

What has been given great attention is the opinion of those who call themselves "fiscal conservatives". They insist that our federal budget deficit is our nation's biggest threat and that our "unsustainable" Social Security system is responsible for the deficit and must be cut back.

In response to these so-called fiscal conservatives, President Obama has created the Bipartisan Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. The Committee's job is to recommend ways to decrease our federal deficit, which has indeed reached astronomical levels. However, rather than concentrating on the devastating degree to which such things as the Iraq and Afghan wars, billions in tax cuts for the wealthy and the ongoing economic collapse triggered by the greed of Wall Street have increased our deficit, the Commission appears intent on attacking the most important and successful part of our National personal safety net – Social Security.

Under serious consideration are proposals to weaken the formula that determines initial benefits; to undercut cost-of-living protection; and to raise the age of full retirement from 67 to as late as 70. As the "fiscal conservatives" speak, they reassure the old folks who are already on Social Security that none of these changes would affect those at or near retirement age. They do not speak of the reality of what Social Security is and what it means to every one of us regardless of our age. They never mention that Social Security has nothing to do with the federal deficit.

They frighten us all about the impact of the retirement of the "Boomer" generation while never telling us that it is not true. The Boomer's retirements were anticipated and Congress made minor changes to the payroll tax cap and retirement age in 1983 to compensate for them.

They frighten us all about the impact of the retirement of the "Boomer" generation while never telling us that it is not true. The Boomer's retirements were anticipated and Congress made minor changes to the payroll tax cap and retirement age in 1983 to compensate for them.

As a result, the managers of the Social Security Trust Fund declare the program will pay benefits in full until 2037. The conservative Congressional Budget Office estimates that the fund will pay full benefits until 2043, when nearly all the Boomers will be dead.

What these "fiscal conservatives" do not speak of is that Social Security is an insurance policy. Every working person pays into it. As a result, every working person has the right to receive the benefits for which they paid. Over the years, the working people of this country have grown the Social Security Trust Fund to its present value of $2.6 TRILLION.

Presently 51 million people in this country receive monthly Social Security checks. Of these, only 33 million are retired workers. The others are

- 3 million spouses or children of retired workers
- 4.2 million surviving spouses of deceased workers
- 1.9 million children of deceased workers
- 7.4 million disabled workers
- 1.8 million children or spouses of a disabled worker

There are 3.1 million children under age 18 who receive Social Security and 900,000 adults who have been disabled since childhood who get benefits as dependents of a retired, disabled or deceased parent.

People who work paid for these benefits. They have the right to collect them just as any of us has the right to collect on any life/disability policy for which we paid. We did our part to prevent ourselves from suffering sudden, devastating poverty as a result of serious injury or death. It is wrong for Congress to cut the deficit by cutting our benefits or by raising the age at which we are eligible to collect them.

But there is good news. More than 60 organizations across the nation have formed a coalition called "Social Security Works." Its purpose is to prevent any cuts to Social Security benefits or any increase in the retirement age.

For more information, visit the Real Change News website: http://www.realchangenews.org/

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▸ **NEWS BITS,** continued from page 3

and 9% tax on income above $500,000. Double the numbers for a married couple raking in some dough. The initiative would also cut State property tax by 20% and exempt over 100,000 small businesses from the B&O tax. If CEO money can defeat an initiative, I-1098 is dead on arrival. Let's count the votes anyway.

Black Box Voting Update

Did someone mention vote counting? Do we have an election coming up? Have we mandated paper ballots that can be used to verify election results yet? I don't think so. (Thanks to Landon for these.)

• Sequoia electronic voting machines count about 20% of US votes. Hackers were able to open the machines, replace the software and install Pac-Man without breaking any of the security seals on the machines. www.bradblog.com has the details and top scores.

• Fire destroyed a warehouse in Houston storing about 10,000 electronic voting machines. City officials are scrambling to replace the voting machines which are unverifiable electronic units. Paper ballots that could be counted by hand are not being considered. The Brad Blog again, scooping all the black box stories.

• As if Black Box Voting issues aren't enough to worry about, the radical right groups are gearing up the vote caging apparatus around the country. Tip of the hat to Landon for directing folks to an informative site in Wisconsin. Sounds like vote caging is gearing up in WI to jam the Feingold voters. Go to http://www.onewisconsinnow.org/ to get the details. It's not like progressive pols like Feingold don't have enough trouble winning elections, their opponents have to jam the voting process to suppress turnout.

News of the Repugnant from the Courts

• The 9th Circuit has decided that Briana Waters trial for the arson fire at the UW Urban Horticulture Center was riddled with errors. Former Olympian and TESC student Briana Waters has been serving six years for a conviction. The Ninth Circuit found that trial judge Franklin Burgess admitted plenty of inflammatory and prejudicial testimony for the prosecution and excluded a Waters documentary that might have been persuasive regarding Waters' commitment to non-violence. The 9th found the anarchist material that was admitted to be self-absorbed and repugnant in its embrace of destruction. Briana Waters gets a new trial. Mike Carter at the Seattle Times has good coverage of the story, at www.seattletimes.com.

• Also from the Famous 9th: in a 6 to 5 decision, the 9th Circuit dismissed a lawsuit against Jeppeson Dataplan, a Boeing subsidiary, that sought damages from JD for assisting the CIA with the extraordinary rendition and harsh interrogation that followed. The 9th decided to dismiss because the Obama administration, like the Bush administration before it, argued that the rendition and interrogation (kidnapping and torture anyone?) processes were state secrets essential to national security. Is it secret (and possibly even repugnant?) that the CIA was arranging the rendition and harsh interrogation of human beings? I would tell you where to find more about this story, but I can keep a secret.

Local News!

• The Olympia Film Society has purchased the Capitol Theater, its long-time home. The ownership of the space is expected to help OFS with fundraising and also allows OFS to join the ownership society at last. When is the housewarming party?

• The Olympia Capitol Park Foundation and Friends of the Waterfront are charging ahead with plans for a Park on the Isthmus. The Oly City Council voted unanimously in August to include the Park on the Isthmus in the City's park plan. You get the feeling that the last City Council election really made a difference. This is going to be even better than million dollar condos on the water. Still can't figure out what to do with the Mistake by the Lake, too tall for mural and public art. Www.tcpronet.org has that story and lots more.

• Concerned Citizens of Shelton filed a complaint in Mason County Superior Court to stop the Port of Shelton from entering in to a lease for a biomass incineration plant without completing an environmental review regarding the impact. Maybe a Mason County election cycle or two will straighten this all out. http://masoncountydailynews.net has coverage

A better world is possible. We are the ones we have been waiting for. Plant your feet, open your hearts.

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The Olympia Free Herbal Clinic is open again!

The Clinic has a new office space in downtown Olympia.

Our open hours are:

Tuesdays	**3 to 7 pm**
Wednesdays	**5 to 7 pm**
Thursdays	**3 to 7 pm**

In the White Building on 4th Avenue (across from the Reef and above Last Word Books) in Room 212. The entrance is to the right of Last Word Books. Our office is up the stairs, down the hall, and to the right.

They are currently accepting applications for internships. Areas of focus include:

- Fundraising
- Donations and advertising
- Medicine
- Receptionist

Their wish list:

- Medicine-making supplies
- Clean, empty tincture bottles
- Organically cultivated or ethically wild-crafted herbs
- Books on herbal medicine, anatomy&physiology, herb/drug interactions, etc.

Community discussion about military use of the Port of Olympia

Location: First Christian Church
(701 Franklin Street SE in Olympia)
Time: 7 p.m.- 9 p.m.
Date: Thursday Oct 21

The Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace is planning to hold a community discussion concerning use of the Port of Olympia for military purposes. This event is being planned in response to the possibilities of renewed use of the Port of Olympia for the shipment of military equipment. As part of the event, a four person panel comprised of one Port Commissioner (invited but unconfirmed), one City Council member (invited but unconfirmed), and two members of OMJP (including Larry Mosqueda) will answer questions from the community. Invitations to Congresspersons Brian Baird and Adam Smith and Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell have also been sent. Participants in the panel will have the opportunity to explain their beliefs and actions concerning the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the role that our City and Port will play. Community members will have the chance to address local officials who will make the decision as to whether or not military ships again visit our Port.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: Why is this event necessary?

A: The Port has not been used in this manner since the Nov. 2007 port protests and the Port of Tacoma remains the most likely destination for returning military equipment. Despite this, the Olympia Port Commissioners as well as the Olympia City Council are currently considering new shipments through our port. It is important that they are given the chance to explain their actions and to answer the questions of the community they serve. We sincerely hope that they will utilize this forum and inform us of the choices they are making on our behalf. More importantly, communication and openness between officials and the public is essential to competent governance. Come make your voices heard.

Q: Isn't the Iraq War over?

A: Although it has been declared "over" several times now, U.S. troops remain in Iraq and still serve in combat roles. In addition, mercenaries employed by the United States are being increasingly integrated into roles traditionally filled by Military personnel. Mercenaries, or "private contractors", are paid much higher salaries than U.S. military personnel and have been involved in crimes ranging from rape and murder to torture and beyond. In addition, although there are fewer troops in Iraq, U.S. personnel are simply being redirected to Afghanistan, where over 100,000 are to be on the ground by the end of the summer.

Q: Aren't returning Strykers to be decommissioned upon their arrival from Iraq?

A: These offensive weapons will not be decommissioned, but rather are scheduled to be rebuilt for future use in combat. It is important to note that Strykers are designed for rapid deployment, their lightweight design and resulting ease of transportation making them very important in preemptive attacks of aggression. With the escalation of the war in Afghanistan, it is likely that returning Strykers will be used in this war on a larger scale.

Q: Why should I care?

A: American citizens are responsible for the actions of their government. Although the effectiveness of our current electoral system is in serious doubt, there are many other actions which may be taken to oppose wars of aggression and other illegal acts by our government. As the wars are clearly illegal, we have a profound responsibility to challenge our public officials at every level. Whatever a person's methods are, from lobbying to direct action, it is essential that we radically alter the imperialistic aims of our government and its corporate "partners". As was established during the Nuremburg Trials, citizens who ignore or facilitate the perpetration of war crimes by their government are responsible for said crimes.

For more in depth explanations of the illegality of the wars, see the list compiled by Larry Mosqueda below:

Whatever a person's methods are, from lobbying to direct action, it is essential that we radically alter the imperialistic aims of our government and its corporate "partners."

Walter Pincus and Dana Milbank, "The Iraq Connection, Al Qaeda-Hussein Link Is Dismissed," *Washington Post*, June 17, 2004. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A47812-2004Jun16.html

UN Secretary General says war is Illegal, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/3661134.stm

Executive Director of the American Center for International Law ("ACIL")
http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article6917.htm

David Kreiger, "The War on Iraq as Illegal and Illegitimate," http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2005/03/00_krieger_war-illegal-illegitimate.htm

Summary of Global Policy Forum on International Law Aspects of the Iraq War.
http://www.globalpolicy.org/iraq/political-issues-in-iraq/international-law-aspects-of-the-iraq-war-and-occupation.html

"UN Weapons inspector Hans Blix, Iraq War Illegal," http://www.commondreams.org/headlines04/0305-01.htm

"West Point Graduates Against the War: Laws and treaties violated by President George W. Bush, Vice-President Richard Cheney, public officials under their authority, and members of the U.S. military under their command."
http://www.westpointgradsagainstthewar.org/laws_and_treaties_violated_by_pr.htm and http://www.westpointgradsagainstthewar.org/

British Chilcot Commission, 2010, Lawyers Expose Illegality of Iraq War,
http://www.thefirstpost.co.uk/58900,news-comment,news-politics,chilcot-inquiry-lawyers-expose-illegality-of-iraq-war

Downing Street Memos showing that Britain and US Knew the war was illegal before the war started, http://downingstreetmemo.com/memos.html.

Marjorie Cohn, President, National Lawyers Guild, "Afghanistan: The Other Illegal War," http://www.alternet.org/world/93473/afghanistan:_the_other_illegal_war/
Also see Marjorie Cohn, "Obama Af-Pak War is Illegal," http://www.marjoriecohn.com/2009/12/obamas-af-pak-war-is-illegal.html

Francis Boyle, University of Illinois, "No War Against Afghanistan!" http://www.ratical.com/ratville/CAH/fab112901.html
Francis Boyle, "Is Bush's War Illegal? Let Us Count the Ways" http://www.counterpunch.org/boyle0917.html

Arnold J. Chien, Associate Researcher, Institute for Health and Social Justice. "Why the War Against Afghanistan is Illegal" http://coat.ncf.ca/our_magazine/links/issue46/articles/legality_civilian_toll.htm

Gail Davidson, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, "International Law: The Illegality of the War on Afghanistan" http://www.natural-person.ca/pdf/Illegal_War_In_Afghanistan.PDF.

Lee Durfey is a student at The Evergreen State College and is a member of The Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace. He can be contacted at durlee05@evergreen.edu

Peace Works 2010 presents *There is a Field*

Olympia, WA – On October 25, 2010 The Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice presents a staged reading of Jen Marlowe's play *There is a Field*.

When: Monday, Oct. 25, 2010, 8 pm
Where: The Evergreen State College Recital Hall, Communications Bldg.
Suggested Donation: $5-$10

This year marks the tenth anniversary of "Black October," when Israeli police killed twelve Palestinian citizens of Israel, as demonstrations spread across the West Bank, Gaza, and Arab towns inside Israel.

One of those killed was seventeen-year old Aseel Asleh, shot point blank in the neck by Israeli police at a non-violent demonstration outside his village. Aseel had been a leading participant in a program called Seeds of Peace, which brings together Israeli and Palestinian youth. Aseel was wearing his Seeds of Peace T-shirt at the time of his killing and was buried in it.

Playwright Jen Marlowe knew Aseel personally and worked closely with the Asleh family over the seven years she spent writing the play. The script is based on interviews with family members, email exchanges, and official transcripts of an Israeli commission of inquiry.

More broadly, *There is a Field* addresses the problems faced by the Palestinian minority inside Israel, distinct from those of the Occupied Territories. The release of *There is a Field* on the tenth anniversary of Black October offers an important opportunity to inject these issues into the wider Israel/Palestine discussion.

Peace Works is an annual project of The Rachel Corrie Foundation, which continues the work that Rachel Corrie began, inspired by her creative energy and vision for justice. Rachel was killed by an Israeli military bulldozer in Gaza on March 16, 2003 while defending the home of a Palestinian family. Peace Works 2010 is part of a global theatrical call to action, involving communities from around the world performing *There is a Field* this October.

This event is co-sponsored by Evergreen Expressions and the Evergreen program "Visions & Voices."

For Peace Works 2010 updates and further information please contact Rebecca Pilcher - becca@rachelcorriefoundation.org - 360-754-3998

Download fliers & get more info at www.RachelCorrieFoundation.org

Travels with Charlotte

Charlotte Renninger is taking it out on the road. Specifically, Charlotte is out of Olympia and headed east now on a tour heading toward a turnaround point possibly in Wisconsin. Charlotte is traveling, busking, meeting at info shops at as many communities as she can hit talking, listening, recording, and attempting to get a read on what is working and what is not working in each community along the way. Charlotte has offered to keep WIP and WIP readers in the loop along the way. Charlotte and friend Clel loaded up some 20th Anniversary Issues of WIP and some other WIP goodies and hit the road on September 27th.

A WIP contingent met for great brunch at Sages Brunchhouse on September 25th to work out communication details and to enjoy the sun and beautiful weather. Hope to have a report from the road from Charlotte and Clel for the November issue. If you can't wait, and if we can get the electrons in proper alignment you will be able to follow their journey at the blog we are setting up at www.frameofdesign.com

WIP Announcements

Send in announcements to submissions@olywip.org or Works In Progress PO Box 295 Olympia WA 98507

Drunken Poetry
Last Word Books
211 East 4th Olympia
1st Monday of the Month 7:30-9:30pm

Readings on a first-come first-serve sign-up basis. Time is limited so three poems of moderate length or one long poem and one short from each reader.

Tuesday Read-Ins
Last Word Books, 211 East 4th Olympia
Every Tuesday from 5-7pm

Come on in, sit, read and drink free tea!

Peace Vigil
NW corner of Sylvester Park
Every Wednesday from 12 noon to 1 pm.

Please come for all or part of the hour to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. The Olympia Fellowship of Reconcilliation has sponsored this since March 5, 1980.

Info: 491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org

The Other Bank
Wednesdays, Ongoing, 1:00 - 3:30pm
YWCA, 220 Union Ave SE, Olympia
information: 360-352-0593

The YWCA Other Bank provides items to families in need that cannot be purchased with food stamps and are not available at food banks, yet are essential for maintaining health and personal dignity. Items include: toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, soap, tampons and pads, cleaning products, etc. Donations can be dropped off Mon-Fri, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Veterans for Peace airs a local program
Every Wednesday at 5 pm
Every Friday from 9 - 10 pm
Thurston County TV (TCTV)

Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 mills.dennis@comcast.net

"Parallel University"
89.3 FM or kaos.evergreen.edu/
Every Thursday from 12 - 1 pm

Features interesting, informative programs about peace, social justice, the environment, progressive politics, and other alternative viewpoints. parralleluniversity@yahoo.com

Volunteer Work Parties at Bread & Roses
Saturdays, ongoing, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Bread and Roses, 1320 8th Ave SE
information:. 754-4085
http://www.breadandrosesolympia.org

We're building a food garden! By summertime next year, every square foot of land at the Bread & Roses community will be growing food for our community meals and for local soup kitchens and food banks. If you like gardening, have a pickup truck, yard tools to loan, or like doing fun projects with your neighbors, please join us! There are a lot of ways to get involved: paint the shelter, make repairs, can home-grown food, prepare the Saturday supper, or build new furniture. Volunteer work parties every Saturday 1 to 5pm followed by Saturday Supper, a gourmet meal, at 6:00pm. RSVP at www.breadandrosesolympia.org

SafePlace Morning Ascent Breakfast Fundraiser
October 1, Friday 7:30-8:45am
Indian Summer Golf & Country Club
5900 Troon Lane SE, Olympia

All proceeds from the event go to services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, such as emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis line, support groups, legal advocacy and so much more. If you are interested in sponsoring, hosting a table or attending the event, contact Thomasina Cooper at thomasinac@safeplaceolympia.org or 360-786-8754 x112

3rd Annual Silent Art Auction
October 1, Friday – 5-10pm
FREE ADMISSION ALL AGES
Capitol Theater, 206 5th Avenue SE
360.754.6670

The Mezzanine Art Gallery at the Capitol Theater is hosting it's 3rd Annual Silent Art Auction showcasing creations by: Olympia Screen, Sarah Adams, Rachel Carns, Craftsman Copper, Will Eikleberry, Ira Coyne, Eric Fleming, Beech Tree Building Co., Jenny Macc, Lauren O'Conner, Chris Ross, Big Hammer Technology, Devin True, Sarah Utter, Nikki McClure, Queen Bee Creations, Arrington de Dionyso, and more! Proceeds from the silent auction benefit the Olympia Film Society. Enjoy animated shorts from the Marge Brown Collection at 5:00pm followed by a celebration of the human spirit through the music and dances of Spain FeaturingFlamenco 'Luz Dancers: Kristin Clingan-Roy, Julianna Jones. Singers: Seema Bahl, Kristin Clingan-Roy, Nadia Plascencia, and Erfin Lau. Guitarists: John Bussoletti, Pawel Szuszkiewicz with guest dancers: Angie Portaro & Victoria Jacobs, and guitarist: Gustavo Lopez, performance is from 7:00 - 9:00pm

Visit *Works In Progress'* booth at
Thurston County Fair's
FALL SECONDHAND SAFARI
Community Garage Sale & Reuse Fair
October 2nd, Saturday
3054 Carpenter Rd. SE, Olympia
360-786-5453

Event includes garage sale booths, educational booths, free book and magazine exchange table, entertainment, food, and more! The fair is designed to be a nearly zero waste event, with compostable and recyclable waste being collected at waste stations staffed by Master Recycler volunteers. Goodwill will have a trailer on-site and will be accepting donations (at their discretion) throughout the day. All community groups, non-profits, businesses, agencies and individuals working on sustainability issues will be there!

International Week of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space
October 3rd to 10th

Modern warfare – especially the US's current wars – relies largely on weapons directed by space satellites and remotely controlled by people safely in the US or elsewhere. These weapons cause massive civilian casualties, which the US military either denies or casually dismisses as collateral damage. Today's children are being trained through video games to become remote killers of tomorrow. The Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space invites you to join the International Week of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space. Holly Gwinn Graham will table at Traditions Café with information from 12 noon to 4 pm on Sat and Sun Oct 3-4. tohollygg@comca

Earth Charter
October 7, Thursday – 10am-12pm
Olympia Unitarian Universalist
2300 East End St NW, Olympia

The Earth Charter is a declaration of the fundamental principles that are going to be needed for building a just, sustainable & peaceful global society in the 21st century. See www.earthcharter.org. This class, offered through the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation (OUUC) Adult Education Program, is open to all interested individuals. A single registration fee of $10 applies to all the classes. Fee waivers are available. Additional class information and the entire program guide is available at http://www.ouuc.org (then click on "Adult Education"). Roger Nielsen can be contacted at thenielsens2000@yahoo.com

Olympia Live! A Benefit For Young Breast Cancer Survivors
October 8, Friday 7:30-11:30pm
Capitol Theater, 206 5th Avenue SE
360.754.6670

$10.00 at the door/$5.00 advance at www.brownpapertickets.com or Rainy Day Records. Event for all ages.

Join Rodeo Kill, Glass Elevator, The Jessica Blinn Quartet, Victoria Williams, and other special guests backstage for a night of great music, prizes, and fun surprises! All proceeds benefit The Pink Daisy Project and Young Survival Coalition - Seattle. More info: http://olympialive.info

Heartsparkle Players: "Stories of the Many Faces of Courage"
October 8th, Friday 7:30pm
Traditions Cafe, 5th & Water SW, Olympia

Performance collaborates with SafePlace, Thurston County's non-profit whose mission is to strive to put an end to sexual and domestic violence and advocate for personal and social change through crisis intervention and education. Heartsparkle Players, an outstanding local troupe with a loyal following, use Playback Theatre, a spontaneous collaboration between performers and the audience. People tell moments from their lives, then watch them re-created with movement, music and dialogue. Everyone is welcome! A $5-$10 donation is requested; no one is turned away. Information: Debe Edden 943-6772 debek@olywa.net www.heartsparkle.org

Lewis County Fellowship of Reconciliation "Fire Mountain FOR" Monthly Meeting
October 9, Saturday - 1-3pm
Santa Lucia Coffeehouse
Locust & Tower, Centralia

Following noon to 1 pm peace vigil nearby in Washington Park on Pearl St. Info Larry Kerschner 807-5106 peacepoet@gmail.com or June Butler 748-9658 juneb2@earthlink.net

5th Annual Left Foot Fun Farm Formal,
October 9, Saturday 5:30 – 9:30pm
South Puget Sound Community College, Student Union Building

Join us for our biggest event of the year! Dinner with produce fresh from our farm, music, entertainment by the Left Foot farm crew, and a silent and live auction with many fabulous treasures. Tickets are $50 (includes one complimentary beverage--beer, wine, soda). Stay tuned to http://leftfootorganics.org/ and Facebook for details. Left Foot Organics promotes self-sufficiency, inclusion and independence for people with disabilities and rural youth through meaningful, paid employment and training in the business of growing and selling quality organic food and farm products.

Olympia Climate Action Monthly Meeting
October 11th Monday – 7-9pm
MIXX 96 Meeting Room
State & Washington, Olympia

Meets the second Monday of every month (except December) Information: Barb 878-9901

National Organization for Women (NOW)
October 12, Tuesday – 7 pm
Traditions Café, (5th & Water SW)
360-705-2819

Planning, discussion and topics meetings for the next period. Includes Women's Equality Day event planning for the State Capitol Museum, as well as state conference information.

South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign
Tuesday, October 12, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7pm
Traditions Café,
5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

This community group formed in 2000 to address sweatshop issues and has focused on getting public institutions to adopt sweatshop free purchasing practices. We meet the. For more info. go to www.southsoundcleanclothes.org

"Hands-on Earth Care with Children" - Earth Care Series Event 1
October 13, Wednesday - 7 - 9 pm
Traditions Cafe, 300 5th Ave SW
information: 459-5825
Website.. http://www.oly-wa.us/interfaith/ESC.php

"Hands-on Earth Care with Children" What's happening in local schools that could serve as models for gardening and waste reduction(recycling, composting) in other local schools? A panel discussion with Karen Ray (Thurston Co. Food Bank School Gardens Coordinator), Rob Cahill (Lakes Elementary Teacher), and Peter Guttchen (Thurston Co. Solid Waste Food to Flowers Coordinator). Part of the Earth Care Series on Ethical Eating. All events are free. Donations accepted. Co-sponsored by Earth Care Catholics of Olympia and Interfaith Works Earth Stewardship Committee.

TC PRO-NET'S
6TH ANNUAL BIRTHDAY BASH
October 13, Wednesday – 5:30-8:00pm
Chica's Café, 105 Legion Way SW, Olympia
(360) 705-2529

Members and Friends are encouraged to attend and enjoy their first drink free! ENJOY A DELICIOUS ($15 VALUE) BUFFET DINNER RSVP to nesskris@yahoo.com 866-3795 No later than Monday, October 11th. (Limit is 60). Non-Members pay $15 for the buffet (or you can join TC Pro-Net and pay $10). Come and socialize with your friends, meet new friends, share ideas and listen to the (very brief) "State of the Network." Joe Hyer will do a tell-all....about the Let Them Eat Cake Fundraiser where he was the auctioneer. We are inviting political candidates to join us if they wish so you can talk to them on a 1 to 1 basis (no speeches) if they decide to attend.

Community Discussion about Military Use of the Port of Olympia
October 21, Thursday 7- 9 pm
1st Christian Church, 701 Franklin Street SE

The Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace is planning to hold a community discussion concerning use of the Port of Olympia for military purposes. This event is being planned in response to the possibilities of renewed use of the Port of Olympia for the shipment of military equipment.

Dave Lippman
October 23, Saturday 8pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

The Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace presents a special show featuring "The Bard of the Bankers" (and distant half-step-brother of Singing CIA agent George Shrub) WILD BILL BAILOUT in a classic showdown with the anti-war troubadour Dave Lippman. Dave is widely-known on many coasts, and in some interiors, for his sharp send-ups of topical subjects ranging from weapons of mass distraction to SUVs and the wars to defend them. He has toured widely in the United States, Europe, Australia, and Central America in a 35-year musical career.

Putting up the Harvest: Food Preservation and Herbal Medicines with Marisha Auerbach, Jenny Pell and special guests
October 23 - 24 in Olympia, 10:00am – 5:00pm

Ah, the abundance of autumn in Western Washington! We will address diverse options for storing your abundant harvest, such as canning, drying, and freezing fruits and vegetables. Our herbal allies are included in this workshop too! We will look at the various herbal preparations that you may want in your home medicine chest, highlighting those herbs that grow generously in our bioregion. You will receive a diverse collection of recipes and formulas to keep you and your family nourished and healthy during the winter. Course details and registration: http://www.permaculture-now.com Or contact Jenny Pell: 206-949-0496, mailto:jennypell@gmail.com

Staged reading of Jen Marlowe's play *There is a Field*.
October 25, Monday – 8pm
The Evergreen State College, Recital Hall, Communications Bldg

The Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace & Justice and Evergreen Expressions and the Evergreen program "Visions & Voices," addresses the problems faced by the Palestinian minority inside Israel, distinct from those of the Occupied Territories. The release of There is a Field on the tenth anniversary of Black October offers an important opportunity to inject these issues into the wider Israel/Palestine discussion. More information available at www.RachelCorrieFoundation.org

Immigration Course
October 26, Tuesday - 7-9pm
Oly Unitarian Universalist Congregation
2300 East End St NW, Olympia

This course explores the history of immigration in the U.S., current U.S. immigration policy & how it affects individuals. Through sharing immigration stories, guest lecturers, watching & discussing videos, playing a unique board game & going on supplemental field trips, participants can experience first hand the effects U.S. policy has on many of our neighbors & their families. Offered through the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation (OUUC) Adult Education Program, is open to all interested individuals. A single registration fee of $10 applies to all the classes. Fee waivers are available. Additional class information and the entire program guide is available at http://www.ouuc.org (then click on "Adult Education"). Roger Nielsen would also be happy to answer questions and can be contacted at thenielsens2000@yahoo.com

Camp Quixote Presents
November 6, Saturday – 6:30pm
Capitol Theater, 206 5th Avenue SE
360.754.6670

SILENT MOVIE! *THE GENERAL*! Starring Buster Keaton with live piano music by Dave Milne Donations are being accepted at the box office day of show. *The General* is set during the US Civil War. Johnny Gray (Keaton), a locomotive engineer, ends up in hilarious and hair-raising chases and escapes that will make your whole family laugh and cheer! Proceeds from this event benefit Camp Quixote. You can also donate in advance to: Panza, P. O. Box 2274, Olympia, WA, 98507.

National Sweatfree Summit and Conference in Olympia
November 5-7, Friday-Sunday

Approximately 100 national leaders of campaigns against sweatshops will meet here. The organizers seek several volunteers to each host one or two participants and/or provide potluck meals and transportation. Please volunteer as soon as possible by contacting Dick Meyer at Traditions 705-2819 or Bob Zeigler at 570-0848.

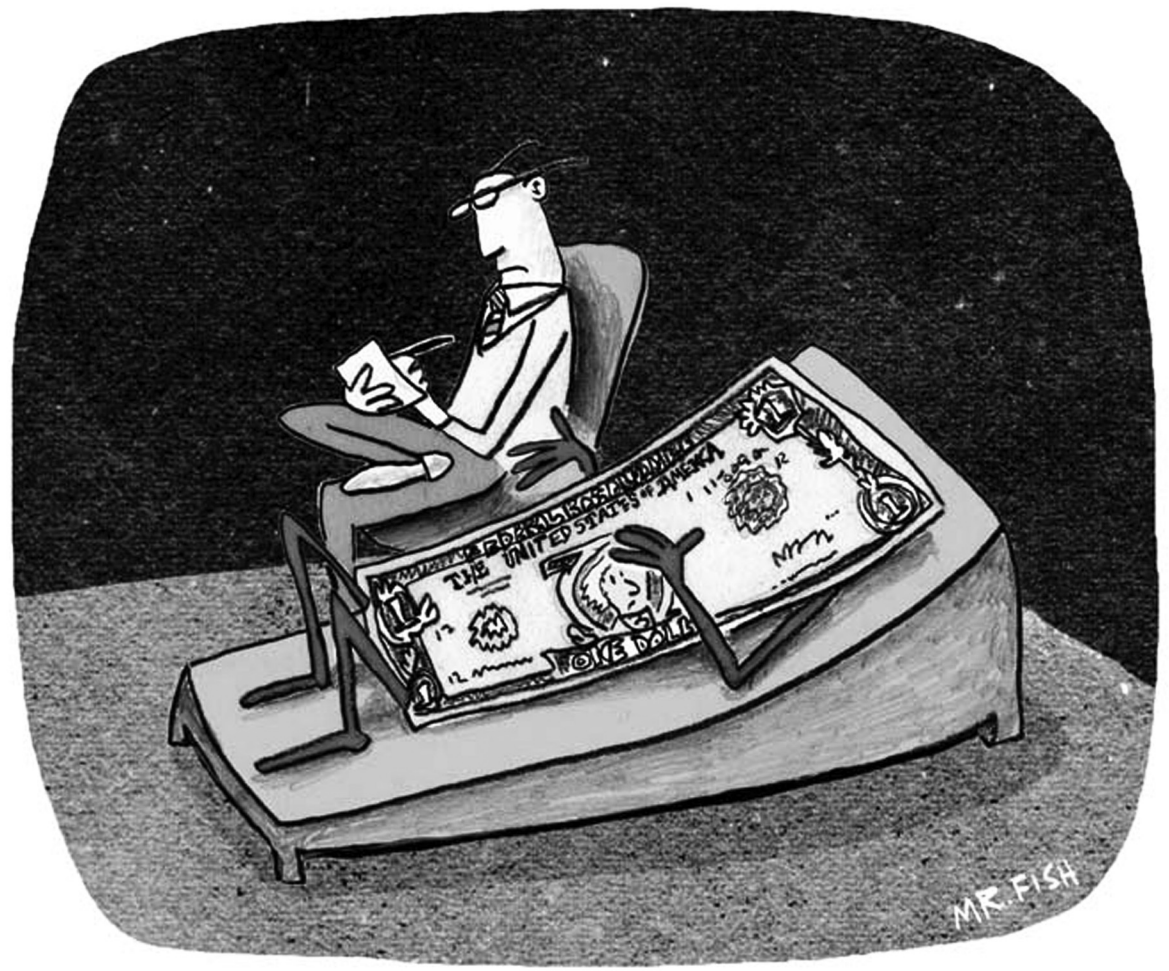
The Sweatfree Summit will be open to the public. Topics include local and state purchase of sweatfree clothing and national legislation.

October 2010

FREE

WORKS IN PROGRESS

SERVING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY OF OLYMPIA SINCE 1990



"I guess I figured, 'Gee, he's the President of the United States – if he says that our relationship is about reproduction then that's what it's about.' Then, the next thing I know, I'm being passed around among his rich friends and told to stimulate them, which I do, because, like I said, he's the President and he loves me, right? Then after all the fucking promises and all the groping and moaning and these creepy old men getting to rub up against me and to delude themselves into thinking that they're NOT old and that they're beautiful and everything is oh so fucking wonderful again, I end up all alone in a limo on my way back to the White House with the President talking to me on a cell phone that he doesn't even own, that he's borrowing from a guy called John Q. Public, and he's giving me all this shit about how he's always wanted a big family and that he can't wait to see me, blah blah blah, and then the car makes a detour and I'm back on Wall Street and the whole circle jerk starts all over again."

The following poem was found taped to the bike of a WIP worker

oh
to be
not anyone
gone
this maze of being
skin
oh
to cry
not any cry
so mournful that
the dove just laughs
the steadfast gasps

oh
to owe
not anyone
nothing
to be
not here
but here
forsaking
equatorial bliss
who walked through
the callow mist
dressed in scraps
who walked
the curve of the world
whose bone scraped
whose flesh unfurled
who grieves not
anyone gone
to greet lame
the inspired sky
amazed to stumble
where gods get lost
beneath
the southern cross

A.Nonymous

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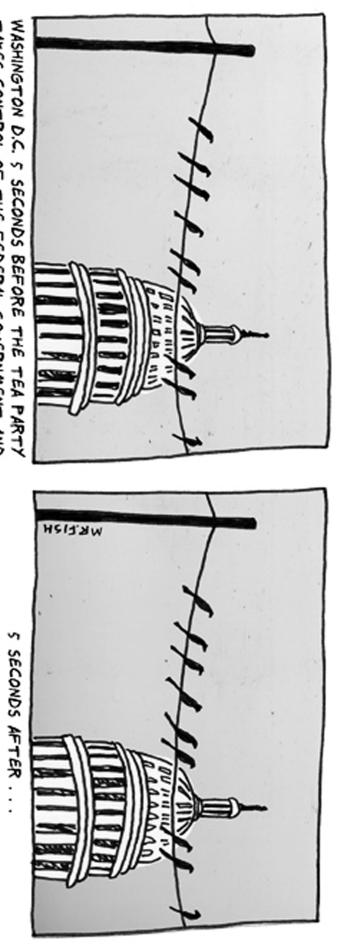
WASHINGTON D.C. 5 SECONDS BEFORE THE TEA PARTY TAKES CONTROL OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND MUTATES OUR DEMOCRACY INTO A THEOCRATIC PLUTOCRACY INCAPABLE OF PROTECTING OUR PERSONAL FREEDOMS AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AS FREE PEOPLE.
MR.FISH
5 SECONDS AFTER . . .

Works in Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507